

Jordan Times

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Jordan demands end to sanctions

NICOSIA (AP) — Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Wednesday renewed his call for an end to economic sanctions and accused fellow Arabs of delaying the lifting of the embargo, the Iraqi News agency reported. "They pay bribes here and there to stop the escalating movement towards lifting the unjust siege on the people of Iraq," President Saddam said in a nationally broadcast address. He did not specify which countries he was accusing, but he was clearly referring to the oil-rich Gulf states. In its most recent review of the sanctions, the U.N. Security Council turned down Iraq's request for the lifting of the embargo. But Baghdad appears to be preparing its oil export facilities and trying to woo European and American companies to prospect for oil in Iraq. The Iraqi News agency quoted President Saddam as saying the United States, Israel and Western-allied Arab states were conspiring to maintain the embargo in place. "But they will not be able to undermine the steadfastness of the Iraqis, who will continue forward through the rubble of injustice and the wall of the embargo, protected by the slogan God is great," he said.

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Jordan, PLO launch crucial talks

King meets top-level team led by Kaddoumi; statements indicate agreement to focus on immediate and urgent issues

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Wednesday opened talks seen crucial to the course of coordination in Middle East peace-making and Jordanian-Palestinian relations.

No immediate details were available on the outcome of two lengthy meetings between high-level delegations from the two sides, but it appeared that the discussions had reached a point where talks on a general framework for future relations were postponed and focus was being given to specific issues which need urgent attention.

PLO sources in Tunis said the delegation, led by Farouk Kaddoumi, head of the organisation's political department and including three members of the Executive Committee, was empowered by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat to start "serious and indepth discussions on all aspects of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship" as well as a draft economic agreement that was worked out in November but remained unendorsed by the PLO leadership.

"The leadership has decided that the delegation will discuss components of the agreement and reach immediate practical



His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday receives PLO delegation chief Farouk Kaddoumi (Petra photo)

decisions with Jordan on the provisions that are not disputed by either side," said a senior PLO source.

The highlight of what observers described as a possible new era in Jordan-PLO coordination was a meeting Wednesday between His Majesty King Hussein and the visiting PLO delegation.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the King and the

Israel, PLO reach deal to resume talks

ISRAEL AND the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel are set to resume stalled autonomy talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba after agreeing on a compromise to end a week's bickering, negotiators said Wednesday.

Israel had refused to go back to the negotiating table until the PLO agreed to base future discussions on a disputed document drawn up last week in Cairo.

The Palestinians said the text reflected Israeli thinking and had to be changed.

An Israeli negotiator said that the two sides would resume negotiations on the basis of the document "but the Palestinians will be able to rediscuss the points which they judge contentious."

The compromise allows both sides to argue that they stood their ground on the draft which Israel leaked after negotiations last week in the Egyptian capital.

In Cairo, a Palestinian negotiator said the talks would

probably resume in Taba on Sunday and there would be no "preconditions."

"All the points will be up for negotiation and that's the most important thing."

The formulation used for the resumption of talks was unimportant, whether it was "on the basis of the Cairo discussions" or similar wording, he said.

Israel and the PLO have waged a battle of words over their different interpretations of the last round of negotiations, but have been holding intensive consultations in private.

They are trying to agree on details of how to launch Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho under the autonomy deal signed on Sept. 13.

In the Israeli parliament, the government narrowly defeated an opposition motion in parliament to make decisions on handing lands over to the Palestinians subject to the approval of three quarters of all legislators.

The bill, proposed by opposition Likud legislator Meir Sheetrit, would have killed any territorial compromise, as the peace process is backed by just 61 of 120 legislators. Its

defeat was narrow: 52 legislators voted against, 46 for and two abstained.

Parliament also began debate on a bill that would set in motion a system for compensating settlers evacuated from territories handed to Palestinians. Some settlers are already seeking such help to move into Israel itself,

"although the government has said no settlements would be uprooted for at least five years under the autonomy plan."

I believe that once we will clarify the rules of the negotiations, what is the status of the papers in Cairo, the understanding in Cairo, we will resume negotiations. I don't know when, the decision will not be taken before tomorrow."

In the Israeli parliament, the government narrowly defeated an opposition motion in parliament to make decisions on handing lands over to the Palestinians subject to the approval of three quarters of all legislators.

The official said an intense exchange of faxes Wednesday morning produced a "great closing of the gaps."

"They have accepted our position that the Cairo document is the basis, and we accept that it is legitimate to propose any substantive changes in Taba," he said.

Although the PLO thus retains the right to demand changes in what Israel has insisted was an agreement, the official said it was important for maintaining credibility between the sides that the PLO accepts the Cairo document in principle.

Negotiator Shaath told Radio Monte Carlo that "the tempest invented by Israel" that had held up the Taba talks appeared to have subsided.

"We resume these talks most probably at the beginning of next week without any pre-conditions," Dr. Shaath said, referring to Israel's demands that the PLO accept the agreement reached last week in Cairo.

The Cairo document summarised a series of compromises on control of border crossings. Reports said the document put the crossings under dual control, staffed by Palestinian police with the flags and other border traps.

Israelis have killed 1,164 Palestinians since the intifada began in December 1987, according to an AFP toll.

Eyewitnesses said Hindawi was shot into the head as he ducked into an alley near the army base in the heart of the refugee camp to escape a group of soldiers about 200 metres away.

The mud in the alley was puddled with blood and pieces of brain scattered across the ground.

After the shooting, Palestinian youths continued to stone Israeli army jeeps patrolling the area.

The death brought to 51 the number of Palestinians killed in Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy accord was signed in Washington Sept. 13, in the same period 19 Israelis have been killed.

Earlier Wednesday, a Palestinian threw a grenade at soldiers at the main crossing point from Gaza to Israel, slightly wounding a Palestinian worker, military sources said.

Troops shut the Erez checkpoint and launched a manhunt after the attacker fled.

Two Palestinians meanwhile set fire to an Israeli bus which was collecting Palestinian workers in the north of the strip after ordering the driver to "hut down" each Arab party individually.

This fear was also expressed by Dr. Anani when he told

(Continued on page 5)

Jordan remains committed to comprehensiveness of Mideast peace despite pressures from opposite sides

By Nermene Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's ultimatum to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) this week was a last-ditch attempt to bring back the concept of comprehensiveness to the Arab-Israeli negotiations, analysts and observers believe.

In his address Tuesday to senior officers from the Public Security, General Intelligence and Civil Defence departments, His Majesty King Hussein expressed his "hope (that) we will reach a comprehensive peace with the help of all parties."

Jordanian officials privately say that the Kingdom was worried that the lack of coordination among the Arab parties to Middle East peace negotiations was leading to the disintegration of the concept of comprehensiveness, on which these negotiations were initially based, allowing

Israel a chance to divide and rule.

According to those officials, the Kingdom has come under Syrian pressure to drop attempts to bring the PLO back into Arab coordination ranks and work instead towards Syrian-Jordanian-Lebanese coordination without the Palestinians.

In view of the fact that the "separate Oslo accord" is going nowhere, the message from Syria was that the upcoming summit meeting in Geneva between Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton could be the right opportunity for the three countries to show PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat that they have the upper hand.

But the question, according to officials and analysts, was whether Jordan would join such a coalition and give up attempts to convince the PLO to coordinate with the Kingdom.

Analysts believe that this development placed Jordan in a difficult position since Mr. Arafat had been continually procrastinating over sending his aides to Amman to attend coordination committee talks scheduled to have started last June but which never did.

ANALYSIS

This sentiment was actually expressed by Minister of Information Jawad Anani this week when he said Jordan feared that the lack of Jordanian-Palestinian coordination would force the country "to react in a way that is not in line with its own policy."

To drop the idea of a comprehensive settlement and allow different Arab parties to reach separate peace accords with Israel would have defied Jordan's policy of waiting until all tracks have

concluded their negotiations with Israel successfully before signing accords simultaneously.

Since Jordanians feel almost certain that President Assad will get something from his meeting with President Clinton on Jan. 16, they felt that they were running out of time in bringing Arab parties to the talks to coordinate their steps and exchange information on developments on their tracks.

Senior Jordanian officials are constructing scenarios for progress on the Syrian front. They believe that while Syria is not expected to give in on its declared intention to accept full peace in return for full withdrawal, it may accept a time-tabled agenda leading to that conclusion if it receives American assurances that would guarantee its economic and security interests.

If this turns out to be true, one seasoned analyst said,

Syria might be seen to be willing to give up its Arab leadership role if the Americans can station American or international troops on the border, maintain Syrian interests in Lebanon and allow Damascus to reap economic benefits of peace.

But Jordan also believes that if this happens without achieving tangible progress on the Palestinian front, there will be the risk of Arab-Israeli negotiations running into two separate "courses" — Syrian-Lebanese-Israeli and Palestinian-Jordanian-Israeli — instead of the four streamlined tracks.

The Jordanians fear that such a scenario, if it actually develops, will further weaken the Arab position and give Israel the opportunity to "hut down" each Arab party individually.

This fear was also expressed by Dr. Anani when he told

(Continued on page 5)

Yemenis protest against high prices

SANA (R) — Hundreds of Yemenis took to the streets in at least two major cities Wednesday to protest at high prices and a sharp drop in the value of the local currency, witnesses said. Security sources said troops were deployed and contained the protests but the situation was still tense in the capital Sanaa and in the city of Taiz, 260 kilometres to the south. No casualties were reported but witnesses said most shops and markets remained shut in Sanaa on Wednesday. There appeared to be no damage to public property, the witnesses said. The country's elected assembly met Wednesday to decide with government representatives what steps to take to stop the decline of the currency and contain high prices for basic foodstuffs. The protests started on Tuesday night in Taiz and were repeated there on Wednesday as well as spreading to the capital. Yemen, one of the poorest Arab states, is also affected by an acute and continuing political crisis (see page 2).

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By P.V. Viveksundar
with agency dispatches

AMMAN — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd arrived here Wednesday for a one-day visit during which he is expected to discuss the role of Britain and the European Union (EU) in the Middle East peace process as well as Jordanian-British relations.

Mr. Hurd, who began his current Middle East visit in Lebanon and visited Israel and the occupied territories, arrived here after announcing a \$100 million British contribution to help Palestinian self-rule envisaged under the Sept. 13 Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement.

In an arrival statement, Mr. Hurd said the money would be donated over the next three years to the Palestinian autonomy authority to help pay for training police officers, setting up a Palestinian radio station and providing scholarships for Palestinians among other projects.

In London, the Foreign Office confirmed that the sum pledged Wednesday was separated from Britain's contribution to the \$600 million the European Community (EC) will donate over five years.

Mr. Hurd said the deteriorating situation in the occupied territories under-scored the urgency in making progress in the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) negotiations on Palestinian autonomy.

Mr. Hurd visited U.N. headquarters in Gaza City, a British-financed eye clinic and the British cultural centre, but stayed away from refugee camps, saying he did not want to cause a commotion that could possibly lead to violence.

Mr. Hurd described the situation in the Gaza Strip as "disaster" and said it was time to end the Israeli occupation.

But it was also up to the PLO, having negotiated a peace, to make it work, he said.

It is in British interests that this should work, that Palestinians should make a success of running the Gaza Strip and Jericho," Mr. Hurd was quoted as saying.

He spoke of "disease, pollution and violence," as manifestations of the years of Israeli occupation.

It would be unthinkable for the peace process to be allowed to slip back, he said.

"It's time to end the occupation. A military occupation is a denial of human rights. There are no political rights in the occupied territories," Mr. Hurd said in his strongest message yet to Israel to abide by the PLO's terms of reference.

Mr. Hurd travelled the rubiest-strewn streets of Gaza with advisers from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency which straddles the Gulf between local Palestinian administrators and the hated Israeli authorities.

Mr. Hurd, a former secretary of state for Northern Ireland, said he had to accept the risks of visiting Gaza.

"Anywhere one is in the occupied territories... there is an element of uncertainty. But that's what the people here live through all their lives," he said.

Syria assails Israel over settlement expansion

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria Wednesday strongly condemned Israel's expansion of a settlement in the Golan Heights and said the move was aimed at undermining the peace talks with Syria.

The official daily Tishreen also urged Israel to evacuate all Israeli settlers from the Golan if it wanted to make peace with Syria.

It said the settlement expansion was aimed at dealing a blow to the hopes pinned on the summit meeting between Syrian President Hafez-Al Assad and U.S. President Bill Clinton in Geneva on Jan. 16 which is aimed at pushing forward the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

"While the world looked with hope and confidence to the Syrian-U.S. summit in Geneva... Israeli Housing Minister Binyamin Ben-Elizer rushed to found a new neighbourhood in the Katzrin settlement in the occupied Syrian Golan..."

"It is natural that Ben-Elizer is assigned by the government of (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Rabin to make this flagrant provocative action which is part of a plan aimed at undermining the U.S. initiative ahead of the Assad-Clinton summit," Tishreen said.

Mr. Ben-Elizer on Tuesday founded the settlement and rejected suggestions that the hundreds of new homes planned for the site would harm already stalled peace with Syria.

Another Syrian leader, Sar-Bar Lev, said the summit would turn to be "hot air."

A U.S. Jewish leader said on Wednesday that Damascus is delaying the promised emigration of Syrian Jews by failing to issue exit visas to entire families.

Lester Pollack, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations, said only two Jews had emigrated since Syria pledged last month that all Jews who wished to leave would be allowed out by the end of 1993.

Mr. Pollack told a news conference that Jews were refraining from leaving until all family members received permission to go.

Middle East News

Reformist team pushes PLO democracy package

TUNIS (Agencies) — Palestinian reformists who want Yasir Arafat to end his single-handed dominance of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) said Tuesday they asked him to broaden decision-making and appoint officials on merit, rather than on political grounds.

Mr. Arafat has been hurt by an inability thus far to deliver tangible benefits from his Sept. 13 peace deal with Israel, and is facing a barrage of criticism not only from Palestinians but also from other Arabs and from its enemy-turned-peacemaker.

The activists from the West Bank and Gaza Strip, led by Haidar Abdul Shafi, arrived in Tunis Sunday. They met with Mr. Arafat.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said the delegation insisted that "a mechanism" should be worked out with Mr. Arafat "in order to end unilateral decision-making."

Dr. Abdul Shafi told the Associated Press in an interview that the eight-member delegation was pressing Mr. Arafat to adopt a package of measures to limit his power in running both the PLO and the self-rule talks with Israel.

He said key demands include:

- Broadening base of decision-making in the PLO.

- Appointments in the PLO and the forthcoming Palestinian administration should be on merit, not based on political considerations.

- Qualified experts from the occupied territories should be among those supervising the negotiations with Israel.

Asked what his group would do if Mr. Arafat did not give a favourable response to the de-

mands, Dr. Abdul Shafi said: "He should convince us first that this is not necessary... otherwise we will voice our dissatisfaction."

But he refused to speculate on their next step if Mr. Arafat turned down their demands, which he described as "logical and necessary."

The reformists support the PLO-Israel accord for limited Palestinian self-rule in the town of Jericho, and Gaza. But they disagree with the way Mr. Arafat is handling negotiations with Israel for its implementation.

The historic agreement has been stalled by differences between the PLO and Israel over control of crossings between Jordan and Jericho, and Egypt and Gaza, and the physical area of Jericho.

Dr. Abdul Shafi said Mr. Arafat, in the first meeting Sunday, complained it was not the right time to present demands.

"He (Arafat) was complaining of difficulties he is facing in the negotiations with Israel and his need for support from the Palestinians," Dr. Abdul Shafi said.

But he said that "the call for democratisation and the negotiations are inseparable."

The following are the nine points of a memorandum sent to Mr. Arafat by the reformists:

1. Creation of specialised councils for pursuing national action with regard to Palestinian autonomy and also with the Arab and international worlds.

2. Calling on qualified people and experts to form councils and the planning and executive structures that depend on them.

3. Giving priority to professional and political competence in forming working groups and negotiating committees and teams, eliminating favouritism and clan loyalties.

4. Working out a plan of negotiation based on the text of the Israeli-Palestinian declaration of principles and ensuring complementarity and coordination among the various commissions and negotiating groups.

5. Forming a supreme authority for guiding, directing and following up the negotiations process with Israel.

6. Forming a Palestinian development and reconstruction council based on specific criteria so that it should be credible in the eyes of the Palestinian people and the donors of funds for building the national economic infrastructure.

7. Finalising the work of the PLO legislative committee charged with drawing up the basic law — constitution — of the national Palestinian authority in a way that brings out its democratic nature.

8. Creating as soon as possible a supreme committee charged with organising a wide national dialogue grouping all Palestinian tendencies.

9. Creating a high consultative committee of experts with a parallel status to that of the PLO Executive Committee, which has already been weakened by the departure of several of its members hostile to the Washington accord.

In this document, the 120 signatories reaffirm their determination to make the Israeli-Palestinian accord succeed, and their attachment to the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

Germany wants Lebanon to extradite suspect

BERLIN (Agencies) — Germany has called for a key suspect in the 1986 bombing of a Berlin discotheque, popular with U.S. troops, to be extradited by Lebanon where he is being detained, the justice department said here Tuesday.

An arrest warrant was issued in 1990 against the former Libyan diplomat, identified as Yousef C., for complicity in the attack on the La Belle disco in which three people died and 230 were wounded.

Germany suspects the former diplomat of preparing the attack, a spokesman for the judicial authorities in the German capital said.

The United States singled out Libya as the mastermind behind the bombing and U.S. warplanes bombed Tripoli 10 days after the April 5, 1986 La Belle attack.

Judicial sources said the man who was being detained in Lebanon was of Palestinian origin and employed by the Libyan embassy in then communist East Berlin.

He was arrested in Lebanon in 1992 and has been detained since, the spokesman said.

It was not immediately clear if the arrest was related to the Berlin bombing.

German authorities were informed of Yousef C.'s detention in Lebanon in late 1992, but the information was kept secret so an investigation could be carried out.

Yousef C. and another former Libyan diplomat in ex-East Germany are suspected of preparing the attack and supplying explosives to an unidentified man.

Accusations were based on documents uncovered in 1990 in the archives of the former East German secret police here who knew about the preparations but did nothing to prevent the attack.

A 37-year-old Palestinian, Imad Mabroum, who is also suspected of taking part in the bombing, was detained in Berlin in November 1992.

His trial opened in April last year but was rapidly suspended after a key witness refused to testify for fear of reprisals. He was later freed.

A German Foreign Ministry spokesman confirmed that Germany was still waiting for a reply from Lebanon, whose Bonn embassy phones went unanswered.

"We've had no answer, no response," despite a second request in November, said the ministry spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The assassination was the latest in a series of killings blamed on extremists trying to topple the military-backed regime. The radicals declared a holy war after parliamentary elections were cancelled two years ago to thwart a Muslim fundamentalist victory.

More than 2,000 people have been killed in two years of confrontation with security forces. Over the past year, the killing campaign has grown fiercer and broadened its scope, targeting members of the judiciary, intellectuals, journalists and foreigners.

Rebels reportedly made a new inroad late last month, succeeding in capturing the airwaves for a 15-minute television broadcast, according to the *French daily Libération*.

The reported Dec. 27 broadcast was said to feature a man, his face concealed by large glasses, discussing the "unification of the mujahideen" fighters, the paper said. The report could not be independently confirmed.

Security forces Monday night announced the arrest of a man suspected of planning the killing.

Syria to remain on U.S. 'terrorism' list

WASHINGTON (Agencies)

— Despite reassuring words from Syrian authorities, the administration said Tuesday it does not plan to remove Syria from the official "terrorism" list prior to next week's meeting between President Bill Clinton and President Hafez Al Assad.

"Syria will remain on the list of state sponsors of terrorism so long as it continues to provide support and safe haven for terrorist groups," State Department spokesman Mike McCurry said.

The administration is giving high priority to promoting an agreement between Syria and Israel, and Mr. Clinton is expected to press for that when he meets with Mr. Assad next week in Geneva as part of a week-long foreign trip.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharara said Secretary of State Warren Christopher last month that Syria would withdraw support for any group seeking to disrupt the self-rule agreement Israel reached with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) last September.

Despite the gesture, Syria continues to be one of seven countries on the State Department "terrorism" list. Countries so designated are subject to economic sanctions.

U.S. officials believe Syria maintains close ties with groups in Lebanon and elsewhere but Syria has denied the allegation, saying its goal is to combat "terrorism."

Mr. McCurry said the terrorism issue has been discussed virtually every time the two countries have had high-level diplomatic contact.

"The president will obviously be discussing our concerns on that issue when he meets with President Assad," Mr. McCurry said.

Syria's image in the United States has improved somewhat with its decision last spring to make it easier for Syria's Jewish population to emigrate. Since then thousands have left.

The United States said Syria allows its territory to be used by Palestinian groups which have conducted "terrorist" operations and continues to assist terrorist organisations in Lebanon, where thousands of Syrian troops are stationed.

The State Department also announced that a congressional mission will go to Israel over the weekend before heading on to Syria and, possibly, Lebanon to find out what happened to six Israeli soldiers missing in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, separate U.S.-Syrian and U.S.-Lebanese negotiations should resume within a week in Washington when the heads of the Syrian and Lebanese delegations arrive here to prepare for the resumption of peace talks with Israel.

Ninth court judge killed in Algeria; no sign of truce

ALGIERS (AP) — An armed group Tuesday killed the presiding judge of a court in western Algeria, Adel Chikh, 32, chief clerk at the Sidi Bou Said court, was reportedly part of a nine-person armed band, six members of whom have been arrested.

Seven armed extremists were killed between Thursday and Saturday, security forces said.

The assassination was the latest in a series of killings blamed on extremists trying to topple the military-backed regime. The radicals declared a holy war after parliamentary elections were cancelled two years ago to thwart a Muslim fundamentalist victory.

The rhythm of daily violence remained steady despite the approach of the Jan. 25-26 national conference to set an agenda for a proposed three-year transition period before national elections.

The transition period is to start at the end of the month, when the five-man ruling High State Council is scheduled to step down. The committee was installed in the military coup two years ago to blunt the rise to power of the Islamic Salvation Front.

Authorities, trying to ease the crisis, have invited law-abiding front figures to take part in the conference. But there was no indication the banned party would be represented.

Sheikh Hashemi Sabouni, a founding member of the party, said in an interview published in the weekly Arab-language paper *Al Hadith* that there had been no official contacts between officials and party representatives.

He called the transition period a "waste of time..." that will only aggravate the crisis and increase the number of deaths."

Security forces Monday night announced the arrest of a man suspected of planning the killing.

JORDAN TIMES, THURSDAY-FRIDAY, JANUARY 6-7, 1992

NEWS IN BRIEF

'N. Korea cancels Scud sales to Iran'

TEL AVIV (AP) — North Korea killed the sale to Iran of long-range surface-to-surface missiles carrying nuclear and chemical capabilities, an Israeli newspaper has reported. The respected Haaretz daily did not attribute its one-sentence front-page report, nor did it say when North Korea called off the sale of the Nodong-1, or Scud-missiles. Defence ministry spokesman Oded Ben-Ami would not comment on the report. Israeli reports have said that North Korea signed contracts to sell the Nodong-1 this year to Iran. The missile has a 1,000-kilometre range, and is capable of reaching Israel from western Iran. It comes with a conventional warhead, but it is capable of carrying chemical and nuclear weapons.

Libya reverts to Islamic lunar calendar

CAIRO (R) — The Libyan authorities have abandoned the Gregorian calendar and reverted to the Islamic lunar calendar, the official Libyan news agency JANA said. "This step is a return to authenticity, given that it is by the lunar months that Muslims and Arabs set their important dates, such as the pilgrimage... the (Ramadan) fast and the two main feasts," the agency explained. It will be at least the second change to the calendar since Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi launched a cultural revolution in the 1970s. Colonel Qadhafi then retained the solar calendar but cancelled month names based on European words and replaced them with Arabic names relating mostly to the weather. Libya also adopted an era starting from the death of the Prophet Mohammad in A.D. 632 instead of the birth of Christ. The lunar Islamic year is about 11 days shorter than the solar year and the era dates from the Prophet Mohammad's move from Mecca to Medina in A.D. 622. The main disadvantage is that months and seasons bear no relationship. The Libyan agency said colonialist countries had imposed the Gregorian calendar "hundreds of years ago." The agency continued on Tuesday to date its reports by the Gregorian calendar.

Denkatch meets envoys of U.N. members

NICOSIA (R) — Rauf Denkatch, president of the breakaway state of North Cyprus, accused Greek Cypriots on Tuesday of seeking to undermine Turkey's guarantor status by proposing that the island be disarmed. "Behind (Cyprus President Glafkos) Clerides' disarmament proposal lies the plan to eliminate the Cyprus Turks," he told reporters after separate meetings with U.S. Ambassador Richard Boucher and Russian Ambassador Alexei Zenkov in Nicosia. "The aim is to have the treaty of guarantee and Turkey's intervention right abolished so that they can have a free hand and be able to act unopposed in their extermination plans." Mr. Clerides has suggested disarming both sides in Cyprus if Turkey withdraws about 29,000 troops deployed in the north since its 1974 invasion, when Ankara cited its status as a guarantor of the 1960 treaty which gave Cyprus independence from Britain.

Balladur tightlipped on Iranians

PARIS (R) — French Prime Minister Edouard Balladur declined Tuesday to explain why he decided to fly home two Iranians wanted on suspicion of murder instead of handing them over to Swiss justice. In his first public comment since Moshe Sharif-Esfandi and Ahmad Taheri were taken from jail and flown home to safety last week, Mr. Balladur said only that he had served France's interests. "This is a decision I believe suited the nation's interests. I do not wish to say more," he said in an interview on France-3 television. "I ask to be trusted on this point, if it is not asking too much," he said.

Syrian-Turkish talks on security end

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Syrian and Turkish officials have ended three days of talks on security matters, including Kurdish guerrilla activities and cross-border smuggling, the Turkish embassy here said Tuesday. The joint working group was set up on Nov. 20 and meets every two months mainly to discuss border security. Turkish officials said the regular discussions were helpful in building confidence between their two governments.

Iran arrests suspects in bank theft

TEHRAN (R) — Police have arrested a group of Iranian bank employees suspected of siphoning off 6.3 billion rials (\$3.6 million) from government accounts, police said. General Reza Seifollahi, in remarks published in a Iranian newspaper on Tuesday, said all the money was recovered from the group which forged accounts in the state-owned Mellini Bank. The report, the latest in a series of corruption cases to hit Iranian banks in recent months, did not say how many people were involved or over what period they withdrew the money. An official at another bank was sentenced to seven years in jail and 55 lashes for taking the equivalent of \$46,000 in bribes.

Iran arrests Ayatollah, dissident says

NICOSIA (R) — A dissident Iranian cleric said on Tuesday that Iranian security forces had arrested a senior Ayatollah in the holy city of Qom to bar him from becoming the top Shi'ite Muslim religious authority. Ayatollah Mohammad Rohani, who believed religion should be separate from politics, was seized at his home in Qom and taken to an unknown place on Saturday night, cleric Mehdi Haeri said in a statement sent to Reuters in Nicosia. There was no independent confirmation of the report.

Storm over plans for 'miracle' site mosque

BEIRUT (AFP) — A storm has broken out over a Muslim cleric's call for a mosque to be built on the site where the Lebanese believe Jesus Christ turned water into wine in his first miracle. The controversy comes five months ahead of a planned visit by Pope John Paul II. Sheikh Jaafar Sayegh, a Shi'ite Muslim cleric in Qana, said over the weekend that a mosque should be built above a cave there which many Lebanese revere as the site where Christ changed water into wine during a wedding.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-10

PROGRAMME TWO
22:25 ... *Desert*
22:15 ... *News in French*
20:30 ... *News in Hebrew*

20:30 ... *Flesh and Blood*

21:00 ... *Beats On*

22:00 ... *News in English*

22:20 ... *Film "Market For Murder"*

The French team from the French National Centre for Scientific Research, led by Pierre Lombard, found 11 "snake bowls" dating from the 6th century B.C.

Measuring two centimetres in diameter, the beheaded snakes were found in clay bowls, and in some cases, traces of woven cloth were

found along with the skeletons.

Mr. Lombard, in a recent lecture, explained that the occupants of the site probably first removed the snake's head and wrapped its headless form in a bag before placing it in a bowl and subsequently burying it as part of a religious ritual.

The French archaeologist suggested that the snakes were used in ceremonies in which ancient Bahrainis worshipped a deity called Mosh.

Little is known about the association with snakes.

The new theory conflicts with ideas put forward in the 1950s by British archaeologist Geoffrey Bibby, who thought tiny bowls containing the skeletons of headless snakes — which he also found — were a reference to the legend of Gilgamesh, which

would be 20 centuries earlier.

Gilgamesh, the best known of ancient Mesopotamian heroes, was said to be a semi-divine king of Uruk in Sumer, who journeyed to ask the secret of eternal youth from Ziusudra, the prototype of the Biblical Noah.

Mythology has it that Ziusudra, along with his wife,

were the sole survivors of the flood, and was saved by the God Enki to enjoy immortality in Dilmun.

Home News

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King, Majali receive premier of Ontario

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein received at the Royal Court Wednesday Bob Rae, premier of the Canadian state of Ontario.

Discussions covered regional and international issues as well as developments in the Arab-Israeli peace process.

The King and Mr. Rae also reviewed Jordanian-Canadian relations.

The King briefed the visitor on Jordan's efforts towards promoting the peace process, with the hope of reaching a comprehensive and durable peace in the region.

Rae sees limitless economic development if peace prevails

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Potential economic development in Jordan and the Middle East is limitless should peace prevail in the region, said the visiting premier of Ontario after a two day visit to Amman which included a meeting with His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday.

"If there is peace, the sky is the limit in terms of development," said Ontario Premier Bob Rae after a meeting with King Hussein and at the end of an official two day stay in which the Ontario premier, perhaps the second most powerful man in Canada next to the prime minister, headed a delegation representing Ontario's business community.

While the premier would not say what deals had been struck between Jordanian businesses and the public sector industries during a press conference early Wednesday evening, he said that there were "lots of them."

A joint venture between Ault Foods Limited and the Jordanian Dar Al Dawa Pharmaceutical industry has been tipped to be one among a series of agreements made between the large business group accompanying Mr. Rae and Jordanian firms, sources close to the delegation told the Jordan Times.

Ontario, with a population of nearly 10 million people is Canada's largest province and is known for exporting its infrastructural know-how and products. Among the most significant of these which the Canadian delegation is known to have lobbied for in Jordan are small civilian aircraft, railroads and telecommunications as well as construction companies and hydro infrastructure.

While Jordan does not have a most favoured trading status with Canada, the Ontario premier hinted that Jordan could receive a good status depending on its role in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT).

Stressing that the business delegation's main purpose in visiting Jordan, the Israeli occupied Palestinian territories and Israel was to "express Canada's support of the peace process," the premier also said that "trade and development will increase when there is an emerging political consensus."

The delegation's aim was to explore the potential regional and national infrastructure development possibilities in the event of "a successful evolution of the peace process."

Jordan, said Premier Rae, was playing a pivotal role in

the region in regards to the Arab-Israeli peace process and the regional tranquility. The premier referred to Jordan's neutral stand in the Gulf crisis as having "increased Jordan's credibility" and "increased respect" for His Majesty King Hussein's judgment among those who are "well-informed about the region."

Premier Rae also said "if there was peace" Jordan was ideally located to act as a hub for regional infrastructure. There had also been "lots of hints" of regional cooperation on such issues of rail links, road links and telecommunications links during Premier Rae's five-day visit in Israel (Dec. 28-Jan. 2), his day and a half visit in the occupied territories and his two-day Jordan visit.

"If a true region can emerge as a result of the peace process then development can be much greater than what it has been thus far," Premier Rae said.

The premier said he was very impressed with the development in Jordan's education and health systems and the strides that had been made in the last thirty years. He said Canada was interested in helping to further develop the health and education sectors in Jordan.

Canada, a country of 28 million people, is largely dependent on the United States market to sell their products and, along with Mexico, is the U.S. partner in NAFTA — the North American Free Trade Agreement. In the past few years Canadian businessmen have been venturing beyond the North American boundaries to find trading partners, most notably Europe and China.

Egypt is one Middle Eastern country in which Canadian hydro industries have helped develop infrastructure.

The peace process

Premier Rae was non-committal on Canada's position vis-a-vis the concept of Palestinian statehood and said, "Canada has always been careful not to support anything that the parties involved don't."

Hinting that Canada could support a federated status of the still Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories, Premier Rae said that Canada's federation of provinces has worked out well.

"I probably should not say this but a people can be recognised as a people or as a country without necessarily being a nation state — the federal solution is a sound one," the premier said.

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

★ Art exhibition by Sudanese artist Abdul Qadir Al Bakhit at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by artist Sadik Kwaish entitled "Talism" at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Art exhibition by Jordanian artist Suha Mash'al at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by Iraqi artist Abdul Jabbar Salman on Bedouin culture at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition on the 100th anniversary of the death of French novelist Guy De Maupassant at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of Iraqi books at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by a number of Jordanian artists entitled "The Sixth Exhibition — Samples From The Contemporary Jordanian Art '93" at the Spanish Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition "Prints and Drawings of Fakhrelnissa Zeid" (1915-1991) until the 15th of January '94 at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation. Also showing the "Permanent" Exhibition. (Tel. 643251/2).

DRAMA

★ Drama for children entitled "The Question" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 11:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

FILM

★ Film entitled "Suspicion" at the American Centre at 5:00 p.m. (on Thursday).

★ Film in English on surrealist artist Max Ernst, with commentary in Arabic by Mrs. May Mudhaffar, at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh at 5:00 p.m. (on Thursday).

Intellectuals debate role of politics in human rights

By Sa'eda Kilani
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Arab human rights advocates Wednesday debated the dominance of politicians over human rights organisations but agreed to accept this hegemony as a reality.

They discussed Canadian-Jordanian relations and cooperation in a number of fields.

Discussion also covered the peace process and the obstacles hindering further progress along the Jordanian-Israeli track, like the refugees, water and expatriate issues.

Deputy Prime Minister Ma'an Abu Nowar attended the meeting.



Justice Minister Taher Hikmat Wednesday addresses the opening session of the human rights conference (Petra photo)



"You can't tell partisans to abandon human rights organisations and call on independents to replace them," she protested.

Lawyer Asma Khader agreed in principle to Ms. Nafaa's remark but pointed to certain limitations. She said that one of the basic rights in international conventions and agreements is a person's right to belong to any political grouping or party.

"We can't confiscate any individual right on the basis of political affiliation," said Ms. Khader, a member of the administrative committee of the Arab Organisation of Human Rights — Jordan Branch.

"But main tasks should be entrusted to human rights advocates whose political affiliation is of minor influence. We can further stipulate that leaders of political parties or veteran politicians are not in leading positions at these organisations."

In her paper entitled "The Reality of the Arab Human Rights Movement: Challenges of the Present and Outlook for the Future," lawyer Mona Rishmawi, legal officer for Middle East Centre for the Independence of Judges and Lawyers, said that Arab human rights are organisations dominated by political parties and that this is a challenge organisations have to face. She said that this structure gener-

ates competition among the different parties over the leadership of these organisations at the expense of the organisations' and plans of action.

Among the many other difficulties facing Arab organisations, Ms. Rishmawi pointed out, are the numerous restrictions these organisations face internally in their efforts to collect information on the status of human rights in their countries. She also cited the absence of a well-equipped and trained cadre specialised in human rights in the Arab countries as another major difficulty in upgrading the level of performance of these organisations.

Externally, Arab organisa-

tions face other major challenges represented mainly in the absence of legal protection for human rights in the Arab World due to the extra powers given to the executive authorities.

Ms. Rishmawi concluded that the dominant Arab culture and traditional patriarchal thinking as well as poor economic conditions, make the task

of highlighting ahead of Arab organisations for human rights an enormous one.

"If Arab organisations do not start to organise themselves, develop their resources and ways of work, it will be difficult for them to face the enormous challenges in front of them and make it harder to take part in the building of a civil, democratic Arab society where the dignity of the individual is respected."

Hikmat: Human rights violations in Arab, Islamic countries are on the rise

AMMAN (Petra) — Deputising for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Justice Minister Taher Hikmat opened the three-day workshop entitled "towards a professional, independent and effective Arab human rights movement" by highlighting that human rights violations in Arab and Islamic countries, among Third World Nations, were on the rise.

The minister said that there was a need for this workshop, which was organised by the International Commission of Jurists, to adopt effective, practical and applicable formulas which can contribute towards safeguarding human rights, protect democracy and the rule of law and also constitute as an important component in the new world society.

The growing human rights violations, added the minister, were bound to threaten human

societies, especially in the Third World.

Referring to Jordan, the minister said the Kingdom acts as an oasis of democracy in the Middle East because of its application and upholding of the rule of law and "because it serves as a beacon for others in the region with respect to human rights."

"Indeed, this meeting is convened in Jordan at a time when this country enjoys stability and prosperity and, above all, democracy which is gradually taking firm hold and making more gains," added the minister.

Noting that Jordan is keen on participating in various regional and international conferences which discuss human rights and the rule of law, Mr. Hikmat said that His Majesty King Hussein and Prince Hassan have personally taken part in such meetings to highlight Jordan's achievements.

Concluding his address, the minister said that Jordan welcomes the opening on its territory of any office or organisation whose mission serves to enhance the true concept of democracy and human rights.

(combating) Zionism and colonisation."

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Yemen, Jordan discuss traffic issues



Major-General Fawwaz Zaben Wednesday meets with Director of Sanan Traffic Department Lieutenant-General Yahya Zaher (Petra photo)

bilateral ties with Yemen in security-related fields.

It Col. Zaher was also received by PSD deputy director for traffic affairs Major-General Mu'ayyad Al-Mubashir.

The two reviewed Jordan's

experiment in planning traffic affairs.

The Yemeni official also visited the Traffic Department and discussed with officials there the prospect of benefiting from Jordanian expertise in traffic-related fields.

NEWS IN BRIEF

King visits air force bases

AMMAN (Petra) — Acting director of the Public Security Department (PSD), Major-General Fawwaz Zaben Abdullah, Wednesday received the director of Yemen's Sanaa Traffic Department, Lieutenant-General Yahya Zaher, who is currently visiting Jordan.

Maj.-Gen. Abdullah said Jordan was keen to enhance

as teachers," said the ambassador. In reviewing Algerian educational problems, the ambassador stressed that his government was interested in Arabising school and university trust books

Akaleh urges more field visits

AMMAN (Petra) — A meeting was held Wednesday at the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment for directors of the ministry's engineering department around the Kingdom to discuss problems facing these departments. Municipal and Rural Affairs Minister Ahmad Al-Akaleh, who chaired the meeting, stressed the need to improve the performance of these departments through organising proper training programme for their personnel. He also urged the department directors to increase field visits to be able to pinpoint the problems and needs of their areas.

Masri invites Berri for a visit

BEIRUT (Petra) — Jordan's ambassador to Lebanon, Fakhri Abu Taleb, Wednesday met with speaker of the Lebanese house of representatives Nabih Berri and handed him an invitation from his Jordanian counterpart, Taher Al-Masri, to visit Jordan. Mr. Berri accepted the invitation and said he would visit the Kingdom after the mid of March.

Youth committee discusses plans

AMMAN (Petra) — The Higher Committee for Voluntary Work has discussed its work plans and programmes for 1994 in a meeting which was held Tuesday evening under the chairmanship of Youth Minister Abdulla Oweidat. Dr. Oweidat called for crystallising a well-defined concept that would benefit the role of youth in voluntary work to contribute to developing the society and enhancing their sense of belonging. The minister reviewed at the meeting the activities of the higher committee during the past year and thanked all organisations and individuals who participated in these activities. He also proposed exploiting the efforts of the youth recruited by the People's Army and called for including voluntary work in their military training programmes. He pointed that the chairman of the joint chiefs of staff has earlier supported this idea and recommended that a representative of the People's Army join the committee.

Algeria wants higher cooperation with Jordan

AMMAN (Petra) — Algerian ambassador to Jordan, Al-Hashmi Al-Qaddouri, Wednesday called for the implementation of a Jordanian-Algerian cultural programme and the formation of a higher joint committee on coordination between the two countries. Speaking at a meeting with Minister Khalid Al-Omari, the ambassador said that despite the adverse circumstances in his country the Algerian ministry of education was determined to go ahead with plans in educational projects. "Already there are seven million Algerian students at schools and the 30 Algerian universities are turning out graduates most of whom work

Islamic Relief Organisation to increase aid to the poor

AMMAN (Petra) — Social Development Minister Mohammad Sqour Wednesday announced that the Islamic Relief Organisation (IRO) was joining hands with his ministry in providing assistance to poor families in Jordan.

Speaking after a meeting with Muayad Battiri, director of the IRO Amman office, the minister said the organisation has decided to widen its monthly assistance coverage to benefit 9,000 needy children instead of 4,000.

The IRO will also provide assistance to poor families headed by working women and

who do not receive any assistance from the Ministry's National Aid Fund (NAF) according to the minister.

Subsequently, families receiving aid from the IRO will no longer be receiving aid from the NAF. Dr. Sqour said noting that funds would therefore be saved to be given for others in need.

The NAF provides monthly salaries to families considered living in abject poverty.

Mr. Battiri said that each orphan child would be receiving JD 17 and up to five orphan children in the same family can benefit from the same

monthly aid.

Noting that the IRO also covers other expenses for the children, Mr. Battiri said that his organisation sponsors his children's pilgrimage (Umra) to Mecca.

He said the IRO was this year sponsoring the trip and accommodation of 135 children from Jordan.

At the meeting, the two sides discussed matters of common concern and the minister later announced that agreement was reached on coordinating the IRO's humanitarian services with the Ministry of Social Development.

Tailed amendments to the present schedule of air routes, developing and encouraging air transport traffic and the exchange of expertise available to either country in technical, maintenance and training fields.

The agreement was signed by Mohammad Al-Tayeb Tunisie's director general of the Civil Aviation Department and Mr. Ahmad Jweibet Civil Aviation Authority Director

A statement Wednesday said that the talks, which led to the signing of the agreement, focused on developing procedures related to civil aviation and air transport which en-

ables both countries to benefit from the latest developments in the field.

Both countries expressed satisfaction with the outcome of the talks and agreed to continue their cooperation in the field of civil aviation and air transport.

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Adapting to new ways

NO NATIONAL leader in recent times has come under so much pressure as Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Since the early days of the establishment of his Fatah movement in the mid-1960s, Mr. Arafat has been on the run, a wanted man in many capitals in the Arab World and elsewhere. Yet he survived. During all those years that he spent flying from one capital to the other around the world he learned an important lesson: How to compromise.

He was constantly under Israeli military and political attack and world pressure to scrap his agenda for a liberated Palestine, which he did.

But now Mr. Arafat seems to be entering the most trying of all periods of time. Will he wrest from the Israelis the seeds of the aspired-for state of Palestine? Will he, while doing so, not trespass on the domains of other Arab countries? And, most of all, will he manage to lead the Palestinian people into a pluralistic, democratic state that respects human rights and the rights of women?

Of these three questions, the last is currently of great significance for his people especially under occupation, the people who most yearn for freedom and human rights. Because if Arafat and his men in the PLO fail to prove to their people, through their actions as well as their words, that they will not have for so many years been fighting to replace a brutal Israeli occupation by an insensitive and a brutal Palestinian regime, the Palestinians will all too easily lose heart from this peace-making process.

It might not be an easy matter for Arafat, long the undisputed leader of a resistance organisation to change his ways and methods. But he cannot continue to alienate leaders within his own circle and those who have won people's trust in the West Bank and Gaza.

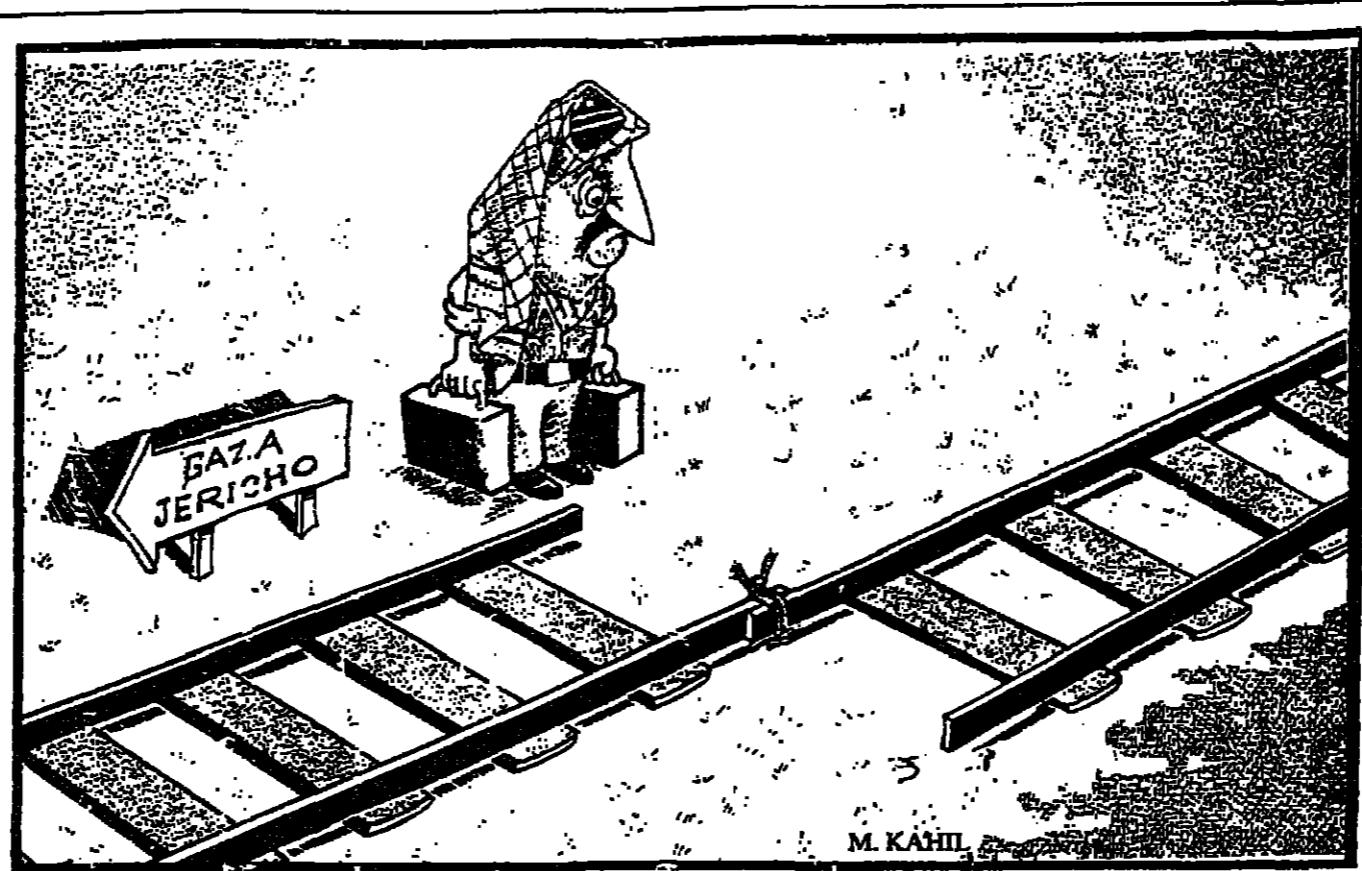
One encouraging sign has been Arafat's acceptance to receive the respected and highly esteemed Haidar Abdul Shafi at the head of a delegation that is demanding reforms of the "old man's" undemocratic practices. Another encouraging news is to see people like Hanan Ashrawi resigning from politics to devote herself to the defence of human and women's rights.

Given all these signs Chairman Arafat cannot but metamorphose himself into a truly democratic man as he did when he switched from the gun to the olive branch.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Sawt Al Shabab daily questioned the wisdom behind importing an army of non-Jordanian workers and giving them work in Jordan which is plagued by unemployment. Nazif Qusous said that thousands of carpenters, blacksmiths and other craftsmen from different Arab countries are employed in Jordan at a time when our vocational schools turn out thousands of them every year. The writer said that the country has been flooded by people coming from other countries, staying on in the Kingdom, working or looking for job, and taking up opportunities that should go to Jordanians. These questions are addressed to the Labour Ministry which has the power to issue permits to the guest workers and has the duty to control the labour market in Jordan, said the writer. Unfortunately, there is no control over the local labour market and the problem of unemployment remains without a solution, he added. Non-Jordanian workers could easily commit a murder or any other crime and in a matter of hours leave the country, leaving the Jordanian society to deal with the mess. We are demanding from the Labour Ministry, concluded the writer, that foreign workers have clearance from the Public Security and other concerned parties before being allowed to leave the country.

THE GREAT number of industrial projects being set up these days give a clear indication that the Jordanian investment climate is quite encouraging for investors, said a columnist in Al Dusour newspaper. In view of the situation, said Mohammad Daoud, there is need to take into account the fact that the presence of a great number of similar industries is bound to limit their ability in marketing and therefore there is need to set up new industries of a different nature, whose products are of demand here and abroad. Experiments had shown that unless the quality of products is good and competing, in Jordan or abroad they have no chance of selling, said the writer. He said that despite the fact that Jordan adopts the free market system, there comes a time when the government should interfere. The government should direct and guide investments and give advice to investors about the best areas to set up the business or ideas about the market situation, he added. The writer called on the government to encourage small businesses working in the same field to merge and improve their quality as this has proved very effective in world markets.



The PLO and the current challenges — the need to restructure

By Dr. Ahmad Y. Majdoubah

EVER since the signing of the PLO-Israeli accord on September 13, which I still believe to be a breakthrough, the news we have been hearing regarding Palestinian political conduct, particularly that of the PLO, is more discouraging than encouraging. Frustration with the so-called PLO's political "style," specifically Yasser Arafat's, has grown to encompass the PLO's negotiating tactics with Israel, its relationship with fellow Arab participants in the peace process (especially Jordan), and, most disturbingly, its relation to its own self.

We realise, of course, that, as outsiders to the PLO's decision-making process, our critique of its conduct or style is, unavoidably, severely limited by what we know and what we don't. And I am afraid that, as outsiders, we know very little. One has to be inside Arafat's close circle to know what exactly is happening, and why. Moreover, much of politics is, generally speaking, schemed and executed behind closed doors. There is always a great deal of secret negotiating, compromising, and bargaining. Most of us poor people are left to guess or conjecture on the basis of what we merely hear or see, which often does not amount to much. This is particularly true with respect to contemporary Middle Eastern diplomacy as a whole.

The quarrel with the PLO's political style begins soon upon the announcement of the "disruptive" Oslo deal, a deal which (while opening up a real channel for the settlement of the Palestine problem) seems to have opened also a can of worms. To many, the "ill-timed" agreement has, though unintentionally, dealt a severe blow to a well-coordinated, orderly Arab-Israeli peace process conducted under the auspices of two sympathetic and actively involved superpowers, has considerably slowed down (perhaps even obstructed) the momentum of peace-making on most of the other tracks, has almost put an end to Arab consensus over peace with Israel, and has (funnily enough) taken

the Palestinian peace delegation by total surprise and eventually turned it against its own leadership. Yes, what counts is the achievement of results. Fine, but could not the agreement have been worked out and orchestrated in a more tactful and organised manner? There are many who still argue that the accord is an example of the PLO's hastiness and recklessness.

Even though it has calmed down noticeably in the weeks after Oslo, the controversy over the PLO's unsatisfactory handling of Palestinian affairs has escalated anew. The most salient evidence comes from within the Palestinian house itself. Forget the Palestinian rejectionists who appear to be satisfied with nothing and whose motives are almost always dubious. There are, first, members of the Palestinian peace delegation, most of whom (we ought to remember) were chosen with the knowledge and blessing of the PLO and most of whom are now voicing their objection to the PLO's autocratic method of leadership. As a matter of fact, the delegation head, Haydar Abdul Shafi, is in Tunis at this very moment, along with a significant number of Palestinians, expressing grave reservations regarding the said matter. At the beginning, many said Abdul Shafi was simply a "cranky" old man. What about him now? What about the tens of Palestinians who are with him in Tunis at this point? And what about Hanan Ashrawi's resignation?

Furthermore, there is also the opinion of many highly esteemed Palestinian scholars, most of whom are adequately familiar with the PLO's internal politics and political structure. Edward Said and Hisham Sharabi, to cite only two examples, have repeatedly and openly warned against the course the PLO is presently taking. Their criticism is extremely difficult to overlook since, unlike some other critics, they calculate and weigh well their views before they air them.

Moreover, there are His

Majesty King Hussein's significant remarks in the speech he delivered a few days ago. No matter how one looks at the King's words, they all point in one direction: Frustration over the PLO's unwillingness or inability to work closely with Jordan, its most sensible Jordanians and Palestinians wish to see fulfilled sooner than later.

Obviously, there is no smoke without fire. Something is seriously wrong with the PLO's approach, with regard to both its internal and external politics. The causes are varied. The first is the fragmentation within the very structure of the PLO itself. The dissatisfaction, neutralisation, or resignation of a number of the PLO's central committee members has left a negative impact on the PLO's overall performance. There is a great deal of truth in the opinion of those who feel that the PLO has become a "ghost" entity, many of its active members having either died, vanished, or simply chosen to be silent. The second, an automatic outcome of the first, has to do with the personalisation, individualisation of the PLO. To many people, the dispute with the PLO is essentially a dispute with Chairman Arafat himself. Many including those who recognise his many virtues and accomplishments, feel uneasy about Arafat's monopolisation of power. The third is related to the nature of the PLO itself. Originally, and fundamentally, the PLO is a revolutionary organisation. Nowadays, it is entrusted with the responsibilities of a full-fledged state. The transition it must go through is not easy.

In my opinion, the state of disorder and confusion the PLO is experiencing is understandable under the circumstances. Too many things happened too quickly. A couple of years ago, peace was at best a dream and an ideal; now it has become a reality. A few months ago, the PLO (to Israel and the U.S.) was a "terrorist" organisation; now it is a legitimate political body. Less than a year ago, the PLO took care mainly of

the same, undetected, in the 50 square kilometres of the Jericho enclave from where these forces would eventually break out to threaten, respectively, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem? That would be unacceptable fiction.

But there is some factual basis for Israeli fears not for "Israel's security" but for the "Israelis' security", a possible threat, that is to say, not to the Jewish state but to its individual Jewish citizens whom the Palestinians have shown themselves capable of shooting, stabbing, axing and blowing up in broad daylight and in busy, inhabited areas of towns and cities.

There are only two certain ways of countering this threat to individual Israelis: either all Palestinians must be "transferred" out of Israel and the occupied territories or, if that were not possible, confine the Palestinians to certain areas, ghettos, where no Jews would be permitted. Or, more realistically, to certain areas, ghettos, where no Palestinian would be allowed.

Israel has already made certain tentative, temporary, experimental moves in this direction when, for instance, it cut off all traffic between the occupied territories and "Israel proper" or when it placed the entire Gaza Strip under curfew for days, even weeks, at a time, or when it did not allow young Palestinian males to enter the Jerusalem area.

Such draconian measures produce results: they do reduce Jewish deaths, but they are conspicuous and attract criticism from human rights groups, like Amnesty International. They also impose a strain on the army and the police who would have the

In peace, there will be no more threats to Israel

By G. H. Jansen

IN THE interminable and unsuccessful negotiations going on between the Israelis and the Arabs on the implementation of the Oslo accord, the Israelis invariably produce what they think is their trump card: a certain concession to the Palestinians that is unacceptable to them because it would threaten "Israel's security." And the mere mention of that sacred mantra, "Israel's security" is enough to shut off further debate.

And yet, threats to "Israel's security" are utterly improbable because Israel is the most secure state in the area. Not only is it in military occupation of territory belonging to three of its Arab neighbours, it is also heavily armed — thanks to the generosity of the U.S. — and it is, as it sometimes accurately boasts, militarily strong enough to defeat all its neighbours, indeed all the Arab states put together.

How then could Israel's minimal concessions to the PLO, Syria and Lebanon threaten the security of Israel? The answer is that Israel has to make a just and lasting peace with the Arab governments and with the Arab peoples. The Israelis who see this, a clearly defined group which is increasing in numbers, are those gifted with the qualities of sensitive humanism and democratic equality; those who, in other words, set aside unreal Jewish fears and all-too-real racial arrogance, based, for the time being, on Israel's military strength and military prowess — though this latter quality is much less than claimed.

But such a change would amount to nothing less than a revolution in Israeli thinking and feeling because it would run counter to the basic concept of Zionism on which the Jewish state is based: that the land of Palestine "belongs" to the Jews, and to the Jews alone, because it was "promised" to them by God, Yahweh, of the Jewish tribe of Israel. Which is why Zionist Jews reject Arab offers to share "the land", in particular Jerusalem.

The split between humanist Jews and Zionist Israelis is apparent in Yitzhak Rabin's

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Such draconian measures produce results: they do reduce Jewish deaths, but they are conspicuous and attract criticism from human rights groups, like Amnesty International. They also impose a strain on the army and the police who would have the

task of imposing this apartheid. (Incidentally, Israel and South Africa, two racist states, have always had strong, cordial relations and not only because there is a large and prosperous Jewish community in South Africa, but because they are similarly circumstanced — racist states surrounded by hostile enemies).

How else is Israel to deal with improbable threats to its security as a state or the more real threats to its individual citizens?

The answer is so blindingly obvious that it is overlooked by all except a few specially gifted Israelis. The answer is this: Israel has to make a just and lasting peace with the Arab governments and with the Arab peoples. The Israelis who see this, a clearly defined group which is increasing in numbers, are those gifted with the qualities of sensitive humanism and democratic equality; those who, in other words, set aside unreal Jewish fears and all-too-real racial arrogance, based, for the time being, on Israel's military strength and military prowess — though this latter quality is much less than claimed.

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The split between humanist Jews and Zionist Israelis is apparent in Yitzhak Rabin's

phrase "cultural differences". Razzaz Associates, a group of writers and ideological activists, was a natural alliance among several hundred young people in Jordan. It was formed in 1989, mainly to combat the situation in Jordan, which has been divided into several sectors and intellectual and cultural movements, not only in the effect of social changes in Jordan, but also in the ground of the W.A. sectors. By the way, the young writers group has been formed in Jordan, and it is a natural and important and active force in the field of social changes in Jordan.

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Jan. 6, 1994 A

Published Every Thursday

Reformists vs old guard — JWA faces 'cultural anxiety'

By Mohammad Masharqa

Vith the phrase "cultural anxiety" Jordanian novelist Munes Al Razzaz summarised the crisis now facing the Jordanian Writers Association (JWA) at the political, cultural and ideological levels.

The crisis was a natural outcome of the deep changes that influenced the principles on which contemporary Arab cultural trends are based.

A dialogue among leading Arab thinkers and writers over the past few years has not risen to the level of the banges but rather manifested an expression of an "ambiguity situation," chaos and political parties dismemberment which has become typical of the nature of artisian activities in Jordan.

It was natural in this situation that politically characterised divisions and anxieties should be reflected in all intellectuals, not because these influences are officially motivated and not surfacing as a result of and under the effect of social developments or activities. Differences of views are now plaguing the JWA and swing the ground for the February elections in the various JWA sectors.

Deep differences of views are emerging because the young writers are demanding that there be major grants that focus attention on the need to protect writers' interests, dignity and the cultural movement. The young writers group totals 330 in number, making up one third of JWA members.

For his part, Mr. Razzaz has displayed enthusiasm about the young writers programme of reform. In his view, the JWA's role has changed under the influence of the on-going changes in Jordan and the formation of

political parties under the era of democracy.

He says that it would be a blunder to keep the JWA serving as a front displaying the political parties' struggle with the authorities in the country and warns that Jordan is at the threshold of enormous challenges.

"The JWA should arm itself for the coming stage by adopting a well prepared programme that focuses attention on creating cultural works to serve in the post cold war era."

He called for young writers to carry out their

AMMAN CULTURAL PULSE

ambitious programme which aims at stimulating JWA's activities.

"At the same time we demand pluralism in creative work and in the creation of cultural schools rather than wasting writers' time and effort in squabbles over fickle political stands."

Mahmoud Al Imreh, president of the Al Watari Club in Ruseifel town asks: "Why should there be political tutelage within the JWA over creativity and why can't a revolutionary group, which is very enthusiastic to fight the idea of cultural and political normalisation of relations with Israel, form its own political party?"

Of course the two sides involved in the squabble within the JWA are keen on concealing their political orientations by pretending that their differences are only professional and cultural.

But the truth is that the crux of these differences are related to the Arab stand vis-a-vis the political settlement on the Jordanian-Israeli and Palestinian-Israeli

tracks. This view is supported by Mazen Saadeh, novelist from the young group of writers.

Saadeh says that the JWA board has been elected on the basis of the previous political set-up.

This trend, according to Saadeh, resulted in the JWA's isolation and the shrinking of its members.

The JWA board, which is chaired by Fakhri Ka'wari, has been involved in non-cultural issues — not cultural and not creative in nature — in the past years, according to poet Basel Rafaiqa, Al Ra'i Arabic daily's cultural editor.

But there are other causes for this divergence of views among JWA members according to novelist Jamal Naji who is now tipped to become JWA president.

There are two concepts which affect this crisis within JWA involving two groups, one trying to maintain the same methods and the other attempts to introduce changes in methods and approach in the light of cultural and political changes, according to Naji.

Naji says that it has become necessary for the "political expression" to upgrade itself into a "creative expression."

The past stage witnessed a transformation within the JWA into what resemble a political party, as it is now issuing political statements and slogans without coming up with mechanisms or action plans to promote culture, he adds.

Is there a real struggle going on within the JWA? Perhaps, this is the case. The old guards who traditionally assumed the leadership since the association's foundation in the mid-seventies, shouldered huge burdens and faced imprisonment. They were banned from writing after defending the association's right for existence

following the government's ban of the JWA in 1986. The old guards also defended freedom and democracy and respect for human rights. These sacrifices and this role enabled the old guards to remain at the helm all these years. But the old guard has also benefited from all that comes with the leadership, like invitations to attend conferences abroad.

In the last few years there has been a slackness in admitting new members and the JWA imposed a rule that only those who had served as association members for two years will be allowed to run for elections or to assume the presidency. All this has deprived the new generation of writers of a chance to assume the presidency.

Judge Hashem Gharaibeh, who is also nominating himself for the JWA presidency, said "the JWA board should be set up on the basis of creative trends which would bring in real change and cultural pluralism."

According to Razzaz the revolutionaries are still a minority and could lose their battle in the first round, because ending the old and traditional system is not an easy matter in a country like Jordan.

This is the general view of the situation inside the JWA and the result of the crisis that has exploded, somewhat too early.

But one has to admit that the struggle within the JWA has been positive in nature, and that its cultural and political trends are not personal perhaps. Razzaz was right in predicting a loss for the revolutionaries and the reformists.

Yet, the struggle has indeed opened a new door to question the real role of the Jordanian writers, and has brought back the spirit that prevailed in the old JWA.

The cultural movement in Irbid

By Mohammad Daoud Tabboub

It's surprising how small the number of Ammanites who have ever been to Irbid or have known about it, though its geographical and topographical location as well as its esthetic qualities make it perhaps the most beautiful city in Jordan.

With a vast plain stretching to the east and south and an uninterrupted chain of little hills in the north and west it looks more like a resort than a city. Each year at the advent of spring Irbid puts on a jubilant tinge and looks like a bride wearing a multi-coloured gown, hence the nomenclature "the bride of the north." Its winter is as mild as its summer, which makes it the ideal place for a thoughtful and quiet life and a suitable place for literature and poetry to flourish. That's why many authors and poets sprang from its soil. In this connection Jordanians admire and dearly remember the great poet Mustafa Wahbi Al Tall, considered by many a great laureate.

Though cultural activity in the city is relatively new it is rich compared to other areas in the Kingdom. A new generation of city writers have put their mark on the Jordanian literature scene in recent years and acquired some fame and respect within cultural circles in the country.

Any essay on cultural activity will be incomplete if it were void of due presentation of the persons who gave and are still giving much of their time, thought and effort to make cultural movement in the city a reality.

Mahmoud Issa, a pharmacist and head of Writers' Association branch in Irbid willingly introduced me to important poets and authors. He is now working on a novel which deals with the social fabric in a cynical manner.

Dr. Ibrahim Al Khateeb, a gynaecologist, is a poet who carefully and instinctively chooses his vocabulary and expressions and who has the ability to write poems in both old and new forms (rhyme and free or as some describe them as the horizontal and vertical forms). He is also a well-known critic of poetry. Al Khateeb published his first book collection of poems in 1984 after the title "Chant Me My Tomorrow" followed by "Lanterns for an Extinguished Day" in 1985. In 1986 he published "Winds Barn," in 1987 "Izzidin Al Qassam" and in 1989 "I Take Refuge in Stone" then in 1990 "Face to Face" from which I chose the following lines:

If you carry youth's dream to age of old,
by then, you recognise width and length of road.



Dr. Ibrahim Al Khateeb

If grey hair fine your head with its days and seasons,
but your eyes wouldn't care to behold.

If all hardships bow before your feet as told,

There, then, is a new meaning for heroism.

"My poetic experience now far surpasses the past," he says adding that poetry is the fruit of life experience and as such gets finer and ripens with the passage of time. "This is what actually is happening with me."

Another poet, Edward Haddad has the gift of dressing his long poems, though not easy to grasp, with colourful imagination in a hazy atmosphere. Reading through Haddad's work, one feels that he moves stealthily from one idea to another motivating his reader to follow his unseen dream to the end. Haddad published some of his poems in a book titled "Flight on a Low Altitude" and sporadically furnishes some of Jordanian Arabic newspapers and magazines with his poems. The following extracts from his poem "Merenaries and Lovers" may shed some light on his style:

Oh.... how pretty you are!

How often I mingle you with coffee,
In a raining morn.



And reside in you with shaken anxiety,
As a branch long torn,
I leave my dried leaves on your breast,
Easing a cry... yet I cry

Blessed are the eyes of sea,
That overflow me
Blessed are the eyes of jungle and rain, that cleanse me.
Blessed are the eyes of sea,
That drown me deep where I drop my anchor... but then, there they leave.

While literature in the north and indeed elsewhere in Jordan is directed to grown-ups and little is dedicated to children, Hassan Naji took the hard path of writing plays in poetical form for children. Many of his plays have been acted on theatres here in Irbid and in other Arab cities and got popular recognition and some awards.

"It pleases me so much to address children's minds and hearts. Yet this endeavour needs official encouragement. After all I alone cannot afford, from the material point of view, to publish my works although the children's library lacks this line of literature in Jordan," he said.

On a larger scale, novels and short stories found fertile soil in Irbid. Sulaiman Al Azrui and Hashem Garaibeh are among the pioneers in this field.

Al Azrui is also a sound critic of literature and his books "Studies on Jordanian Story and Novel" and "Studies of Modern Jordanian Poetry" are vivid examples of his cultural background.

ICHAGO (R) — To more accurately detect the spread of cancer, radiologists are using patients with a substance containing glucose and a slightly radioactive marker before the X-ray, said Michael Hill, a radiologist at the University of Tennessee Medical Centre in Knoxville. Cancer cells, which tend

to grow and divide more rapidly than normal cells, will take up more glucose," thus marking diseased areas on an X-ray, said Michael Hill, a radiologist at the University of Tennessee Medical Centre in Knoxville. The radioactive material would decay quickly and pose no risk to patients, Dr. Hill said in a report presented to the Radiological Society of North America.

The technique is useful for assessing how fast a cancer

is growing. If the cancer has metastasized, chemotherapy rather than surgery may be the proper treatment, Dr. Hill said.

After injection with the substance, patients undergo whole body positron emission tomography (PET

Scan), which costs about \$1,800 per patient. There are only 78 centres with PET Scans in the United States and Canada.

After injection with the substance, patients undergo whole body positron emission tomography (PET

Hill said. Surgical biopsies where tissue is removed and analysed remains the standard technique to diagnose cancer, but the PET Scan is non-invasive and can better detect the disease's spread, researchers said.

Chocolate museum dream comes true

By Nao Nakanishi
Reuter

and tiny white orchid-like cocoa flowers bloom.

The ground floor of the museum contains a modern factory where cocoa beans harvested and fermented in banana leaves in Africa or Latin America are turned into chocolate bars.

Hans Imhoff, owner of one of Germany's largest confectioners Stollwerck, has spent a fortune on a ship-shaped building overlooking the Rhine that is devoted to chocolate.

Opened in October, the museum — which advertises itself as the only such exhibition in the world — is attracting tens of thousands of visitors.

"I have long dreamt of a museum recording the history of chocolate," says Imhoff, a chubby man with a cherubic face who admits to indulging his passion for chocolate every day.

"Now my dream has become reality."

"Everybody has happy childhood memories related to chocolate," he told Reuters. "But not many people know what chocolate is, where it comes from and how it is produced."

Ismail Abul Bandora is one such self-inducive translator who is keen to bring Arab readers the fruits of other nations' minds. In 1982 he published his first translation of Gabriel Garcia Marquez' book "Eyes of the Blue Dog" and in 1985 he completed a collection of Yugoslav literary works that was published in Al Mahdi literary magazine.

In 1991 Abul Bandora translated "Yugoslav stories", a collection of eight stories written by two famous Bosnian writers. The collection includes a fine introduction to Yugoslav literature. Abul Bandora is now working on Meva Salimovich's novel "The Castle."

Irbid's men of letters have their own branch of the Writers' Association established in 1982. With self-financing and with the help of local establishments they were able to found a branch for the Association in downtown Irbid. It can be seen from the schedule of activities the bulk of effort exerted by the management of the branch body over the years, especially over the last three years.

The general sentiment among members of the cultural circle in the north amounts to resentment resulting from what they see as Amman's negligence of their creativity and activity. They think that both the media and concerned cultural departments focus their attention on Amman literary figures and pay little attention to other famous figures elsewhere.

Mohammad Daoud Tabboub is a political and literary researcher and translator based in Irbid. He contributed the above article to the Jordan Times.

It may lack some of the magic that Charlie discovered in Willy Wonka's fictional chocolate factory, such as brown rivers of chocolate, squirrels cracking nuts for chocolate bars or dwarves singing songs as they make candies.

But it does have a golden chocolate fountain where visitors can dip a biscuit and savour the heavenly taste of fresh warm chocolate.

"I dipped my finger into the chocolate fountain. It was delicious," said Elmar Busch, a surgeon from Cologne.

A hothouse room contains a small tropical forest, where real cocoa trees grow in the shade of palm trees

Unlike the standard box-shaped vending machines of today, early machines came in imaginative shapes such as an elephant, an African boy, a palace or an elaborate grandfather clock, some with moving parts.

Among the toys Stollwerck offered to its customers at the turn of the century is a fascinating mini-grandophone for playing chocolate "records."

The customers apparently gave in time to temptation a long time ago. None of the edible "records" survive.

Injecting glucose marker improves X-rays

ICHAGO (R) — To more accurately detect the spread of cancer, radiologists are using patients with a substance containing glucose and a slightly radioactive marker before the X-ray, said Michael Hill, a radiologist at the University of Tennessee Medical Centre in Knoxville. Cancer cells, which tend

to grow and divide more rapidly than normal cells, will take up more glucose," thus marking diseased areas on an X-ray, said Michael Hill, a radiologist at the University of Tennessee Medical Centre in Knoxville. The radioactive material would decay quickly and pose no risk to patients, Dr. Hill said in a report presented to the Radiological Society of North America.

The technique is useful for assessing how fast a cancer

is growing. If the cancer has metastasized, chemotherapy rather than surgery may be the proper treatment, Dr. Hill said.

After injection with the substance, patients undergo whole body positron emission tomography (PET

Hill said. Surgical biopsies where tissue is removed and analysed remains the standard technique to diagnose cancer, but the PET Scan is non-invasive and can better detect the disease's spread, researchers said.

Professional amateurs

By Jean-Claude Elias

In the world of personal computers (PC), a noticeable phenomenon has marked the beginning of the nineties. Users worldwide have ended their quest for more powerful, faster, feature-laden machines and turned to learning how to better use software. Hence the remarkable expansion of the training sector in private companies, government institutions, schools, major organisations and the attention it has received.

Once the question of selecting and acquiring satisfactory hardware was solved, PC users realised that the priority should be given to the programmes, and that they had to focus on understanding computers and software rather than being obsessed with megabytes and megahertz.

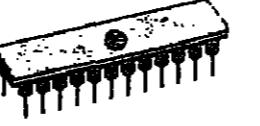
Computer "awareness" became, and is still, the trend. Whether you are a teenager or in your seventies, a plumber or a corporate executive, you had to know about computers. Even if only to take an active part in social conversations. Owning a PC did not even matter.

Things however went overboard. What started as a justified move to vulgarise the topic and educate the public ended up creating an unhealthy, unclear situation. Many neophytes, having read PC magazine or two and having attended a summer training course, thought they have become data processing consultants.

If a little on-hand experience combined with some reading can certainly help people improve their computer knowledge and skills, it won't make them experts overnight. It is one thing to use a word processor, it is another to set up and control a local network of PCs or a large relational data base.

To be fair, one must not put all the blame on the users. Specialists who give training have their own share of responsibility. To attract the users, they tend to

chip talk



promise more than they can deliver. More that can possibly be delivered anyway. How can anyone expect to replace four or five years of systematic academic studies with a few training courses?

In some stage of the computer training, it should be made very clear to the operators that computer awareness is one thing and true expertise in informatics is another. Individuals who are self-taught or attending private courses have to know where the difference.

The deceptive factor is the relatively low cost and small size of modern PCs. They can easily make you believe that everything is simple, inexpensive and that, whatever you are planning to do with the machine, you will never need the help of an expert.

Think of it this way: You can take an Aspirin without your doctor's advice or approval, but would you decide to have open heart surgery on your own? Let alone perform it yourself!

Learning more about PCs is not only recommended, but has become essential for communicating with your peers in a modern world. One can push the awareness and knowledge as far as possible. When in doubt however, consulting a specialist becomes an absolute must.

ON THE LIGHTER SIDE

By Mohammad A. Shuaib

TIME FOR RIB-TICKLING READING

CREAM-PUFFS

A CREAM-PUFF is a weak and ineffective person especially a man.)

★ He never has to worry about his station in life. Everyone is always telling him where to get off.

★ When a fight starts, he always does his best—100 yards in 10 seconds.

★ At the first sign of trouble, he thinks with his legs.

★ If he goes into an auto showroom just to use the phone, he buys a new car because he hasn't the nerve to walk out without buying something.

★ When he goes to a dentist, he needs an anesthetic just to sit in the waiting room.

★ You can break him easier than a biscuit.

★ When faced with danger and threatening disaster, he sets his teeth, assesses the situation in the twinkling of an eye—and then runs faster than a jack rabbit who hears the howl of a wolf.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

SAY IT IN ARABIC

Common expressions

— Go about your business. Ibta' id min hona.

— I've done it for your avail. Fa'al haza limas'l-hatik.

— I value honour above life. Al sharaf indi agħla minn-hayat.

— He empowered me to act in his name. Kallatam ann isnoob anħo.

— I'm amiss today. Ana muta'akkiril-mizaj hazal-youn.

— Don't set my back up. La togħidoni.

— I appeal to God against evil. A'oozo billahha minash'sħaħanir-rajeem.

— Away, you hypocrite. Okħra' min hona ayyħħal-monatiq.

— You should not appear against your relations.

Yajib ann la tħoħi akaribak.

— They are the apple of my eye. Innħawn a'azz an-nass alayha.

— Innaħom a'azz an-nass alayha.

HUMOUR

• Abbas married an ugly woman. Whenever he set eyes on her, he felt very depressed and looked upon her as if she were a man.

One day the wife looked out of the window and saw a beautiful girl. She called her husband and said: "Hurry up and have a look at that girl." He gazed at the passing girl deplored and cursing his luck, and said:

"Dearest...! I've a good idea. I suggest we both marry her."

• POLICE OFFICER: "Why didn't you move your car when the sergeant commanded you to do so?"

MAN: "Because my wife asked me to wait for her in this particular place. Whose order do you think I should obey?"

• Father summoned his daughter and said to her: "Our young neighbour has visited me in my office to ask for your hand. I gave him my word. Is this all right?"

DAUGHTER: "But how can I leave my mother alive?"

FATHER: "You can take her with you!"

• At a stamping the first kiss on his bride's lips, he said to her:

"Am I the first man in your life, darling?"

"Yes, my love," she answered.

"Did you like my kiss?"

"It's really the most delicious kiss I've ever tasted."

HOROSCOPIC CHART

WHEN WERE YOU BORN?

Jan. 21 to Feb. 19

People born during this period have a strong sense of duty. They have a kindly disposition and are inclined to be affectionate. They refuse to think ill of anyone until the bad qualities are proved. Being straightforward themselves, they imagine everyone else is the same and, on this account, they are likely to suffer some bitter experiences.

However, they lack a proper regard for their own welfare. They are a little too confiding and they are not adaptable. Once they make up their minds on a matter, it is almost impossible to persuade them to change it.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

TO THESE PEOPLE WE SAY

Don't brood over troubles. Face the facts, fight them out, and then forget all about them.

Don't be guided by impulses.

Don't neglect the financial side of things, if you want to succeed.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

BANK OF KNOWLEDGE

SADISM

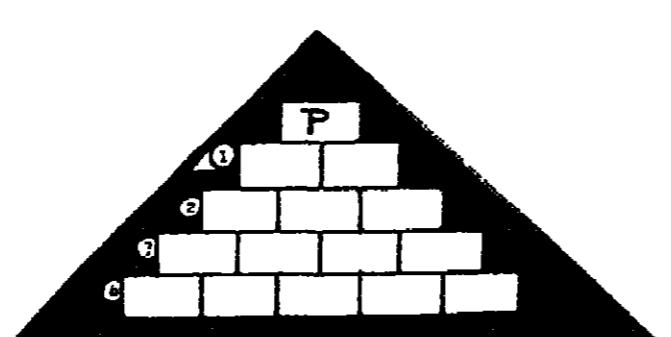
Sadism is a sexual perversion in which gratification is attained by the infliction of physical or mental pain on the person one loves; named for the Marquis de Sade, a French novelist, who was charged with numerous sexual offences. He spent 27 years in prisons or asylums, writing obscene romances, including Justine (1791). His theory that since sexual deviation and criminal acts exist in nature, they are natural, foreshadowed modern psychological thought. (compare 'Masochism')

★ ★ ★ ★ ★

PUZZLES

LETTERS TRIANGLE

In letters triangle you add only a letter to the one at the top to make a meaningful word and then add another new letter to the second row apart from the letters of the first row to produce a word that has also a meaning. You continue doing this with the third and fourth rows. You can insert the letters in each row provided that all the words begin with the letter "P" and give the desired meaning as indicated below.



THE CLUES:

1. Name of father.
2. Container used for cooking.
3. A single sheet of glass used for a window, door, or sash.
4. Members of a jury.

Granny

By E. Yaghi

Granny lived in a big house with her husband, grandpa. They had many children who were mostly all grown up, plus one teenager and many grandchildren. Now granny and her spouse, despite of having a whole lot of children and who should have been sick and tired of anything having to do with kids, loved their grandchildren dearly, especially two in particular who had come to live with them in the same quarters.

It was difficult at first for granny and grandpa to get used to putting up with small children. They woke up at all hours, cried in the middle of the night and more than that, scattered their toys, food and more importantly, cookie crumbs, and fingerprints all over the house. What made the situation even nicer, the naughty grandchildren's mother seldom bothered to sweep up the crumbs that got ground into the carpeting or wipe off little black fingerprints or help granny, prepare the huge meals that looked as if they were made for an army. Thus, poor old granny with her head full of thinning gray hair and a stooped back from working hard to raise all her own children, had to now cook and clean and pick up after a tonne of people as though she were a young chick herself.

Yet, whenever one of her precious grandchildren cried, granny, and yes, even the pretending to be gruff grandfather, would rush to the rescue to save the grandchild in distress.

It came to pass that despite of the ensuing overcrowded bathrooms, waiting in line for a turn at the iron, and sometimes queuing near the telephone, granny and grandpa loved those little rascals, the grandkids, who had stolen their hearts away. And a very strange thing happened too, those little rascals began to love their grandparents too and in fact, the baby became strongly attached to guess who? Nobody other than granny herself. Oh, baby loved grandpa also, no mistake about it, but when it came to granny, she stuck to her like glue and didn't want to be separated from her grandmother no matter what. Adding insult to injury, she even called her granny "Mama" much to the disgust of the child's mother. In fact, the baby's mother only delighted in using granny as a built in cook, cleaning woman and babysitter and became quite blue in the face whenever baby refused to go to her mother. Even though the food was free, hot meals were cooked every day, and all the other conveniences offered to granny's son, and his diligent wife (who spent 23 out of 24 hours sitting doing absolutely nothing) decided to move out. Oh, out didn't happen to be too far away, just downstairs a bit, but nevertheless, away from those conniving parents who had the nasty habit of doting on their grandchildren and interfering in the affairs of said son. After all, they were supposed to behave themselves like good grandparents and remain very silent while their grandchildren destroyed their home, smeared black finger marks throughout, broke whatever they could lay their hands on and cried at unearthly hours of the night. Furthermore, they were supposed to turn

their hearts on and off like a water faucet when it came to their grandchildren to the convenience of the kids' mother as though love and affection could be switched on and off so easily. Whenever she wanted to bury herself in her remote room and pretend to be too extremely busy to help cook, clean or straighten up, she often shooed her children out of the room and shut the door on them so they would go and get stuck on their grandparents. It never mattered what the grandparents were doing, or if they were busy or not, it only mattered how convenient it was to the children's mother, but whenever she decided she wanted the children back in her room, she would roughly and sometimes rudely wrench them away from the cook granny and that gruff grandpa who only cared so very much about the welfare of his grandchildren and who so kindly supplied the money to build a new apartment for his son and son's family downstairs.

Well, to make a very long and tiring adventure shorter, granny's son and her daughter-in-law moved out of their mess, the noisy grandchildren who had nonetheless won their grandparents' hearts, and went to live in their new apartment with an air that seemed to granny as almost rebellious, leaving granny and her husband with peace and quiet like heaven, no more spilled toys, black fingerprints, cries at all hours of the night or cookie crumbs ground into all the carpets. But something else happened too. It was as granny said to her husband one day not long after the transition of their son moving out, over a hot cup of tea while the two sat brooding in the kitchen, "you know, it's nice not to have to cook such huge meals all alone, to be able to wash and iron when I need to, and not to be taken advantage of so much, but those darling little children left an empty space in our hearts and home. No one will even know how much we love them or care for them, not even our son. We were rewarded by their mother by their presence when she felt it to her convenience, and when she wanted to spite us, she denied us their company. In other words, for these long five months, our purpose was merely to act as agents for her advantage. She never considered that she could have helped me cook or clean, that was my job, but hers was to do as little as possible in order to save her strength for her own selfishness."

And grandpa said: "How true. Now those months that they stayed with us have vanished like nothing and all the love we put in those little children will be wiped away from their mother. She never helped you cook or clean, for why should she? She didn't even change her own children when they were wet or dirty or keep them warm, or even stay home to care for them. What do you expect from a woman who is selfish and cares for herself more than our son, her husband, or her own flesh and blood, her children? She wants to show off how clever she is and compete with everyone in everything, but she doesn't care to be a good homemaker or mother which really should be her first priority."

JTV CHANNEL 2 WEEKLY PREVIEW

Thursday, Jan. 6

8:30 Flesh And Blood

The proverb says: "Blood is thicker than water." Rachel, the lawyer, finds how true it is as she meets Anthony's help in rescuing him from a woman...and her mother!!

9:00 Talk Show

9:30 The Campbells

James Campbell and his brother-in-law, Andrew, are victims of a conspiracy. Both await the reading out of the will, left behind after the death of Andrew's father.

10:00 News In English
10:20 Movie Of The Week

Marked For Murder

Upon the suggestion of a woman psychiatrist, a tough prisoner is set free to help with police work, hoping to transform him into a good and a productive citizen. New life begins outside the prison walls.

10:00 News In English
10:20 Feature Film — Deep Trouble

Starring: Robert Wagner, Isabelle Pasco and Ben Cross

A police officer and an American firebrand named Madigan fall in love with the same beautiful woman, Alice, whose father was murdered.

Friday, Jan. 7

8:30 Walter And Family

Zak, while at his grandparent's house, pretends to be sick to avoid going to school, while his dad is on a business trip.

9:10 Faces And Places

10:00 News In English

10:20 The River Kings

This is the story of a family forsaken by the father. They are to survive on a barren and dry land. The eldest son's hope is to move out.

11:10 Yes Minister

The Economy Drive

In order to cut spending, the minister suggests doing without the dispensable administrative employees.

10:00 News In English

10:20 Island Son

Gifts

Saturday, Jan. 8

8:30 The Fanelli Boys

Ronnie seems to suffer

from "falling for the older

women syndrome."

He seeks Anthony's help in

rescuing him from a woman...and her mother!!

10:00 Talk Show

10:30 The Campbells

Oscar campaigning — videotapes put

Hollywood on fast forward

By John Horn
The Associated Press

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. — Established to honour the best work seen in movie theatres, the Academy Awards have been transformed into a battle of mass-produced videocassettes judged on TV sets.

The 4,500 Oscar voters are being inundated with a blizzard of free tapes not available in any store as major studios and independent distributors alike desperately battle for precious nomination votes.

Just a few years ago, Oscar campaigns were limited to advertisements in Hollywood trade newspapers. The prevalence of videocassette recorders and the financial rewards of Academy Award attention have merged to put videotape front row, centre, despite worries about videotape piracy.

Titles shipped to academy members range from the highbrow art films *The Piano* and *The Remains Of The Day* to the low-budget children's film *Homeward Bound: The Incredible*



A scene from the film *Gettysburg*

Journey and the quickly forgotten Thriller *Malice*.

All four hours of *Gettysburg* — filling two videocassettes — is now in the mail, and cassettes of Debra Winger's *A Dangerous Woman* arrived on some academy doorsteps before the movie arrived at local theatres.

Oscar officials privately worry that any film not distributed on videocassette to Oscar voters won't be nominated, and some producers face agonising decisions about shipping their visual spectacles on the far less impressive video format.

"*Short Cuts* should be seen in a theatre in all its 70 millimetre glory," says Ira Deutchman, whose fine line features has yet to decide whether to mail cassettes of its film. "On the small

screen, it loses a lot of its impact."

Universal Pictures has declined to make its acclaimed holocaust film *Schindler's List* available on a videocassette, urging voters to see it in theatres, and will not send out tapes of *Jurassic Park*, the highest-grossing film in movie history.

Unlike voting in acting and creative categories such as costuming and cinematography, in which only certain academy branches cast ballots, the entire academy votes for best picture. Voters need not prove they have been either the eligible films or the ones for which they vote.

The academy urges its members to see movies in theatres, and they can do so for free; no jurisdictional rules apply.

tional ability to limit the flow of tapes.

The independent distributor Samuel Goldwyn Co. has launched an especially aggressive campaign for its Shakespeare adaptation *Much Ado About Nothing*. Oscar favourites *Philadelphia*, a film about an AIDS patient, *Schindler's List* and *The Piano*, a love story featuring a mute woman, all debuted at year's end. Director Kenneth Branagh's *Much Ado*, on the other hand, premiered in May, and may be a foggy memory.

Furthermore, the film's co-star Emma Thompson plays prominent roles in *The Remains Of The Day* and the upcoming *In The Name Of The Father*. *Much Ado* best actress votes for Miss Thompson might be hard to come by as her fans will be split among three performances.

In addition to a *Much Ado* videocassette, Goldwyn gave academy members free soundtrack albums, a photo brochure and a book about the film's production. The Oscar pitch was timed to conclude when most competing campaigns begin. The theory: Make *Much Ado* the benchmark against which other films are measured.

"You know the almost ridiculous amounts of money that are spent towards the end of the year by the studios," says company president Samuel Goldwyn Jr. in explaining the grassroots strategy. "How much do you think they're going to spend on *Schindler's List*? We're facing a lot of money."

Budgeted close to



Peter Gallagher (left) with Francis McDormand and Jerrett Lenz in Robert Altman's film *Short Cuts*

den Globe Awards.

Independent Miramax films will send out cassettes of the Chinese film *Farewell My Concubine*, even though the subtitled movie will lose a lot in the process.

"Concubine is difficult on video but we nonetheless did it," says Harvey Weinstein, whose Miramax was

one of the first to exploit videocassettes for Oscar votes. "Seeing it on cassette and seeing it on the big screen are two different things."

"But the nomination is a sure-fire way to bring mass attention to a movie. It's almost a good housekeeping seal of approval."



Zhang Fengyi (left) and Leslie Cheung in *Farewell My Concubine*

Denzel Washington looks ahead to directing

By Jim Loney
Reuter

TORONTO — Denzel Washington, one of Hollywood's hottest actors, makes no secret of his desire to play a different part behind the camera.

With starring roles in two Christmas releases — opposite Tom Hanks in the Jonathan Demme AIDS drama *Philadelphia* and co-starring with Julia Roberts in *The Pelican Brief* — Washington is a bankable Hollywood attraction, one of the actors audiences most want to see.

Yet Washington seems unimpressed with his status as one of Hollywood's leading men and more interested in his agenda for the future.

"I'm not on the movie star track," he told Reuters in a recent interview at a Los Angeles hotel. "For the last two or three years now it's been very important what director I work with."

Indeed, a peek at Washington's recent resume reveals an actor making the rounds of the best directors of the day: Pakula and Demme, Kenneth Branagh and Spike Lee.

"I needed the challenge.

In *The Pelican Brief*, an action-thriller based on the novel by John Grisham, Washington plays investigative journalist Gray Gran-

tham, who becomes embroiled in an assassination plot at the highest levels of government.

The film marks Roberts' return to moviemaking after a long hiatus and Washington admits that his agent — at least — was excited about the commercial prospects.

"My agent's like, 'she hasn't made a movie in three years and this is the big comeback.' I could hear the (cash register) going 'cha-ching' in his head," Washington chuckles.

Philadelphia, on the other hand, is expected to become a cinematic "event," one of Hollywood's few — and, to date, grandest — attempts to weave insightful and compelling drama around the AIDS crisis.

In *Philadelphia*, Washington plays Joe Miller, a street-smart, ambulance-chasing lawyer known around town as "the AIDS crisis."

During one telling scene,

Beckett walks into Miller's law office. In a series of quick cuts he touches various objects on Miller's desk and a look of unease comes over the lawyer's face. Miller then rushes off to a doctor to find out just



Law student Julia Roberts with investigative reporter Denzel Washington in *The Pelican Brief*

how easy it is to get AIDS.

"I had to work at being Joe Miller," Washington said. "I would never react to a doctor to find out just

someone's hand."

Yet Washington admits the role cause him to do a lot of soul-searching about the way he did to shaking his true feelings.

"You have to really confront yourself," he said. "Maybe you wouldn't react that way. But would you feel that way?"

Vietnam film looks at Hanoi's MIA tragedy

By Andrew Quinn
Reuter

HANOI — An army truck packed with corpses barrels through a Vietnamese mountain pass.

Inside, the military driver calmly lights a stick of incense in a plea to the dead to keep them safe. They are the lucky ones, headed for a proper burial at Truong Son, Vietnam's largest cemetery for its war dead.

With these stark shots, the film *Wild Reed* begins one of Vietnam's first cinematic looks at a tragedy that has gripped the U.S. public and still divides Hanoi and Washington: Soldiers listed as "missing in action", or MIA, almost two decades after the guns fell silent on the Vietnam War.

While U.S. attempts to

discover the fate of its more than 2,000 MIAs have been told by journalists and film directors, little has been done in Vietnam to illuminate the struggle to account for its own missing.

"This is the story of all of us," Director Vuong Tuan Duc said in an interview. "The dead have to be accounted for, or else they keep fighting with the living."

The sheer size of Vietnam's MIA problem makes it appear almost unsolvable. From the start of its anti-colonial war against France in 1941 to its withdrawal from Cambodia in 1989, the country was at war for almost five decades.

Tran Cong Man, an army major general and veteran military journalist, said Hanoi estimates it has 300,000 MIAs from the war

with the United States and the former South Vietnamese government in Saigon alone.

"This number only refers to regular soldiers with the North Vietnamese army and Communist forces," Man said. "It does not count missing soldiers from the Saigon regime, or civilians."

"I myself lost an older brother in the war against the French and a younger brother in the war against the Americans. Their remains have never been found."

Duc's film tries to bring that experience to the screen, showing the anguish of a North Vietnamese officer who returns to his hometown with a Vietnamese MIA search team in 1976 to discover his wife has remarried, believing him to be dead.

"We were trying to look at the war from a different angle, with our eyes on human element," said screenwriter Le Hoai Nguyen, a former "student-soldier" who adapted the story from a novel by the late author Nguyen Minh Chau.

Wild Reed represents a

beleaguered movie-makers: It is the only full-length film completed by the official Vietnam Feature Film Studio in 1993.

The country's only other major studio, *Liberation* Films, made no celluloid features this year, industry analysts said.

"The government has sharply cut back on subsidies, so there is no money," Duc said. But he was lucky enough to receive government financial help for his project, with subsidies accounting for half of his \$60,000 budget.

The money, earmarked for films with the right political content, was available because *Wild Reed* is about the war. But when Duc arrived in Quang Tri province to film, financial considerations were over-

whelmed by the power of the story.

"Frankly, I chose this topic because I knew I could get funding. But that is only the beginning," he said.

Quang Tri, a small province at the slender waist that once divided North and South Vietnam, was the scene of some of the toughest fighting of the war, with heavy casualties among civilians and soldiers.

"There are more than 10 cemeteries in Quang Tri for war dead, each with more than 10,000 graves. Two-thirds of these are unidentified," said Duc. "That is just one small province. Imagine what it is like for the country."

Through the army officer, Duc takes his viewers on Vietnam's heart-breaking hunt for its MIA's — from

searching bulletin boards for photographs to clawing holes in the ground at former battlefields to turn up shards of human bone.

This is a trek undertaken by countless Vietnamese families, some of whom walk hundreds of kilometres south along routes once followed by soldiers in hope of stumbling across someone or something to indicate where their loved ones fell.

"Identification is a big problem," Man said. "We only started to use identification bracelets for soldiers, like dog-tags, in the final years of the war. Most were just buried and then marked down on paper maps."

The film's young soldier, killed in a mortar attack, does not join the other bodies carefully wrapped in

plastic and placed in a truck. His body is lost forever to the mountains — although his ghost returns to haunt the former officer.

"How can you find us if you yourself want to forget the suffering," the ghost asks, leaning on his gun in the blasted ruin of a church. "We want to live in the memory of the living."

The officer himself finds a slightly happier resolution to his tragedy. After a bittersweet encounter with his former wife, he is introduced to the small daughter he left behind.

"War is like the slice of a knife, it cleaves life in half," he says in the film's final moments as he carries the laughing little girl down a path away from the unmarked graves.

"The most painful thing is that it is not a clean cut."

Failure to stick to vaccination schedule pushing spread of whooping cough

ATLANTA (AP) — U.S. children are coming down with whooping cough in huge numbers this year because too many are failing to receive vaccinations on time, federal health officials said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported there were 5,457 cases of whooping cough through Dec. 4, the highest number of cases since 1967. Outbreaks have occurred in Chicago and Cincinnati.

In addition, more teenagers and adults are coming down with the sometimes fatal cough and passing it to susceptible younger children in their households, the Atlanta based CDC reported.

"We're not vaccinating our children well enough. It is a real warning," said Dr. D.A. Henderson, deputy assistant secretary for

health and science at the Public Health Service in Washington.

Whooping cough, also called pertussis or the 100-day cough, is a bacterial disease characterised by a severe cough that comes in uncontrollable bursts and ends in a deep, wheezing sound. The cough lasts for several weeks and can cause pneumonia, seizures and inflammation of the brain.

Infants under age 1 are most severely affected by the disease. More than half of infants with whooping cough must be hospitalised and one in 200 dies from it.

This was expected to be a bad year for whooping cough, which tends to peak every three to four years. The number of cases this year jumped 82 per cent over last year and 19 per cent over 1990, the last peak year.

In addition to the out-

breaks in Chicago and Cincinnati, 35 states reported a increase in the number of cases of whooping cough over last year.

The CDC found that about half the preschool-age children who came down with whooping cough this year hadn't received the proper vaccination.

Children are supposed to receive a DTP shot — the vaccination to protect against diphtheria, tetanus and pertussis — at ages 2 months, 4 months, 6 months and 15 months.

They should receive booster shot before they enter school, between ages 4 and 6.

"These were potentially preventable cases," said Dr. Iain Hardy of the CDC's National Immunisation Programme.

Dr. Henderson said parents and doctors have become too complacent about

sticking to the vaccination schedule.

"What we're trying to get across (to doctors) is that every time you see a young child, the vaccination status should be checked out," he said. "And the parents think everything seems to be all right if their child is not sick. They're not understanding that the child needs four doses."

The CDC also found that the proportion of adults and teenagers getting whooping cough is on the rise — from 19.8 per cent in 1980-89 to 26.9 per cent in 1992-93.

Adults and teens who have been vaccinated still can get the disease because the vaccine wears off after several years. But they typically suffer a milder version of the cough and are misdiagnosed as having bronchitis or an allergy, Hardy said.

Africa fears it must fight AIDS alone

By Stephen Hughes
Reuter

RABAT — A full-page advertisement in the Moroccan press depicts the African continent floating in a black void with the caption: "Is Africa condemned to fight AIDS alone?"

It expresses fears that more than 300 million people in Africa, which has the world's highest rate of acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS), will get less help than before to combat the so-far incurable fatal disease.

Professor Abdallah Bensliman, chairman of the 8th African AIDS conference held in the southern Moroc-

can city of Marrakesh, said financial aid is a big problem.

Average spending on health services on the continent is \$3.50 a head a year and 29 of the world's 42 poorest states are in Africa. In some the AIDS rate is soaring.

Prof. Bensliman reckons a Moroccan could spend a whole month's income on condoms. They are not made in Africa and when imported the price has increased ten-fold.

There is a negative trend. Financial aid for AIDS programmes is being diverted to Asia and Eastern Europe," Prof. Bensliman told Reuters in an interview.

The anti-AIDS association Act-Up staged a sit-in at the Cooperation Ministry in Paris last month in protest against its alleged failure to grant sufficient aid to Africa.

A group of 30 demonstrators chanted "Third World forgotten. Third World assassinated" and other slogans.

In a statement the ministry said France had allocated 300 million francs (\$51 million) for medical assistance in Africa to more than 100 technicians devoted exclusively to the AIDS problem.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates that by the year 2000 the number of cases could reach

five million.

"We are faced by an impending catastrophe, a deluge of disease. Until a cure or a vaccine is found our only hope is prevention," Prof. Bensliman said.

If the spread of the disease is not arrested "it is possible that within ten years the elite in African countries will be simply wiped out," he said, saying that elites tended to be more sexually active although better educated.

"The answer is in three words: Fidelity, abstinence and protection. No one, no religion, can quarrel with that."

He stressed that Islam, Christianity and Judaism all preached fidelity.

WEEKEND CROSSWORD

MAKING OUT
By James & Phyllis Barrick

ACROSS

- 1 Head player
- 5 Adds
- 10 Tablets
- 11 Pressed cheese
- 12 Old French dance
- 20 Conceded
- 22 Simeone or Foch
- 23 In agreement
- 24 Pacific island
- 25 Headquarters
- 26 Run
- 29 One cl. mfy
- 30 River in England
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- 34 Reels
- 35 Take-out words
- 36 Dismounted
- 37 Puzzles
- 38 Personified
- 39 Personalized
- 40 Personified
- 41 Working
- 42 Unusually
- 43 Guernsey
- 44 Unrelated from song
- 45 — Ages
- 46 Mineral earth
- 47 Certain stones
- 48 Chinese, e.g.
- 49 — Sensed
- 50 Waste master
- 51 Champion
- 52 Personnel
- 53 Farmer pref
- 54 L+ foul ball
- 55 Life +
- 56 Butter unit
- 57 Alaskan cap
- 58 — point in tempo
- 59 Frothed
- 60 Frothed
- 61 Up to now
- 62 Coasters
- 63 Up to now
- 64 Command
- 65 Not proper
- 66 Kind
- 67 Art, basically
- 68 Drinks of liquor
- 69 Kind of muffin
- 70 Buddy
- 71 Patisserie
- 72 Patisserie
- 73 Cart
- 74 Farm dozen
- 75 Farms range
- 76 Rubber tree
- 77 Little + mem
- 78 Queen — lace
- 79 On the first
- 80 Agates
- 81 Number
- 82 Butter unit
- 83 Like college
- 84 Mugs
- 85 Mugs together
- 86 Traveler's need
- 87 Coasters
- 88 — Loops
- 89 Neighbor of Syria
- 90 Part of a wedding cake
- 91 Buddy
- 92 Buddy
- 93 A man brother's instrument
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Gulf babies maimed at birth

By Simon Tisdale

WAYNESBORO, Mississippi — Unusually high rates of birth defects, rare physical abnormalities, and life-threatening health problems are being detected in babies fathered by United States servicemen who may have been exposed to biological or chemical weapons during the Gulf war three years ago.

The children's plight is matched by what appears to be an abnormally high rate of miscarriage and illness among Gulf veterans' wives.

The disclosures will raise fears that the "Gulf syndrome" — an unexplained, chronic illness which has affected about 4,000 U.S. and an estimated 500 British troops — can cause genetic damage or has a viral component that has communicated it to the soldiers' families.

According to well-placed U.S. officials and congressional investigators, the problems of a growing number of "Gulf babies" born since the war range from rare blood diseases, severe respiratory disorders, and enlarged or underdeveloped vital organs to physical deformities such as fused fingers or club feet.

In most cases, there appears to be no family history of such problems; and children conceived by the same parents before the war were born healthy.

The biggest cluster of cases discovered so far is in Waynesboro, a small town in southeastern Mississippi. Officials of the U.S. government's veterans' affairs department confirmed recently that 13 of 15 infants born since the war to members of a National Guard unit based there have unusual and unexplained health problems.

The 624th Quartermaster Company served in Saudi Arabia and Iraq from January to April 1991, and was twice under biological or chemical attack, according to unit members interviewed recently.

John Ellis said he recalled a big explosion near King Khaled Military City in Saudi Arabia. "It seemed like it was five or seven miles away but it

knocked everyone down. We had an alert for chemical weapons," he said. The alert was one of several which commanding officers later called false alarms.

Dennis West, a sergeant in the Waynesboro unit, reported that an Iraqi Scud shot down by a Patriot missile scattered debris on their camp. He and others believe the Scud may have been what the troops called a "milkshake" — carrying chemical agents, nerve gas, and a virus.

Mr. Ellis and Mr. West are victims of the Gulf syndrome, and both have fathered children since the war. Jonathan Ellis, aged one, was born with dangerously under-developed lungs, according to his mother, Serena, and is constantly ill.

Mr. West's daughter, Reed, aged 22 months, was born with an identical problem and has repeatedly suffered from pneumonia and bronchitis, according to her mother, Ammie. Neither child was premature, nor had either mother had a history of pregnancy problems or ill-health in the family.

Tracey West, the wife of another Waynesboro guardsman, said her son Jeremy, born last July, was diagnosed with a rare blood disorder. Her husband, Jamie, has been unwell since returning from the Gulf.

She said doctors told her after the birth that her blood type had changed from group O Rh-negative to O Rh-positive. "The doctors said this can't happen. They couldn't explain it. I know it can't happen. But it has." Tracey and Jamie West have been told they cannot have any more children.

The baby of Suzi McCarty, wife of another Waynesboro guardsman, was born with a deformed umbilical cord which had caused kidney damage to the foetus. Another woman, who asked not to be named, said her baby was born with a blood disorder. In both cases, their doctors told them the babies' conditions were extremely rare, they said.

Ron Kirkpatrick and other officials at the department of veterans' affairs medical centre

in Jackson, Mississippi, said they could not comment on the cause or on the coincidence of the Waynesboro Gulf babies' problems. Mr. Kirkpatrick said all the Waynesboro cases were under investigation.

But congressional sources said the main reason why an inquiry had been launched was that the constituency of Sonny Montgomery, chairman of the House of Representatives' veterans affairs committee, has also the victims of Gulf veterans' wives.

Mr. Montgomery said this month that the rate of illnesses among the Waynesboro babies was abnormally high. He also asked the national Centres for Disease Control in Atlanta to assist government and Mississippi state health officials to "document, analyse, and monitor the problems of Gulf veterans and their children."

But while the veterans are now being registered, tested, and in some cases, treated for Gulf syndrome, the government provides no such assistance for their families.

All the Waynesboro women said their medical bills had mounted into the tens of thousands of dollars and many of them were in debt as a result.

Last Monday, President Clinton signed into law a bill requiring the veterans affairs department to give priority attention and treatment to "veterans who may have been exposed...during the Gulf war to a toxic substance or environmental hazard."

The new law represented an advance for those who claim that biological or chemical weapons or toxic agents may have caused Gulf syndrome, but it makes no provision for wives and children.

The problems extend far beyond Waynesboro. Mr. Kirkpatrick revealed that the medical records of children fathered by members of an additional three Mississippi Gulf war units are to be examined for evidence of a pattern or common factor.

"Out of 285 men and women in the four Mississippi units, 54 have told us that they have had children since Desert Shield and Desert Storm," Mr. Kirkpatrick said. "Of that, 54, 36 have told us their child has some kind of health problem."

Similar reports of abnormal, very high rates of birth defects among the children of Gulf veterans are surfacing elsewhere in the U.S., but for the most part, they are not being formally investigated.

Several Waynesboro wives said they did not trust the government to tell them the whole truth even if the cause of

Gulf syndrome was eventually established.

Apart from biological and chemical weapons or toxic agents released by U.S. bombing of Iraqi targets, possible causes that have been named include toxins released by the oil fires in Kuwait, uranium depletion caused by exploding ammunition, desert parasites and Pentagon-issued anti-nerve gas tablets.

The Pentagon does not officially recognise the existence of Gulf syndrome. Only last month it finally confirmed French and Czech reports that chemical agents, including nerve gas and mustard gas, had been detected in low concentrations in the Gulf region. But it maintains the readings were not produced by the use of weapons and were too low to be considered harmful.

Meanwhile, Mrs. West of Waynesboro said she had identified or heard of dozens of cases of Gulf veterans' wives who had suffered miscarriages, often later into their term, and after having had children in the past without any problem. Women in their early twenties, she said, were having Down's syndrome babies — a most unusual occurrence.

Mrs. West, who has organised the Waynesboro women, took on the Jackson veterans' affairs department at a meeting she called last month. "We wanted to talk to them about our problems," she said. "But they had a different idea. They gave us a slide-show about home loans.

"The meeting turned real ugly. There was about 250 people there but the VA weren't listening to us. I think they were pretty shocked by the reaction. They apologised the next day."

Mrs. West said her medical bills for Reed amounted to \$40,000 and her private insurance was running out. She had no idea what caused the Gulf syndrome or her child's illness, but she knew that "what's happening's not right."

"Some of the doctors have told us that if you're exposed to chemical toxins, that can change your genetic make-up, change the chromosomes somehow. If it's biological, it can be a virus. I don't know. I work in a bank!"

"But what they don't realise is that when you get hold of a mother, you get hold of the wrong thing. The politicians think they can ignore the men. But when it's children; they can't walk away. You don't mess with a mother."

Several Waynesboro wives said they did not trust the government to tell them the whole truth even if the cause of

fidential database provided by the charity Tact (Trauma Aftercare Trust) — asking if they needed help, for example with a war disability claim. Thirty-six had replied.

The ministry is concerned about the U.S. allegations, because they are likely to alarm service families in Britain, and because one possible cause is depleted uranium anti-tank ammunition used by the army in the Gulf.

British tank crews were given no specific warnings about depleted uranium ammunition. Troops fired 88 shells of this type in action, and about 100 in training beforehand.

In the U.S. the latest evidence emerging from investigations by Senator Richard Shelby of Alabama focuses on the possibility of Iraqi Scud missiles have been fired into Saudi Arabia with warheads of chemical or biological agents.

The Czechs and the French detected low levels of chemical contamination in the war zone, Senator Shelby has been told.

There is evidence that certain chemicals can damage sperm, and defects can be transmitted to babies. A recent review of paternal exposure to chemicals before conception, published in the British Medical Journal, said that damage to foetus could include spontaneous abortion, stillbirth, malformations, pre-

mature delivery or the birth of infants who are smaller than normal.

But Dr. Hay said that, given that the troops had not become acutely ill in the Gulf, the chance of transmitting defects through sperm was extremely unlikely. Some medical problems, such as stomach illness, could have been caused by drugs given as an antidote to chemical attack, but more studies were needed, he said.

In August, the U.S. National Academy of Science's Institute of Medicine concluded that the Agent Orange defoliant used in the Vietnam war, caused cancer in some veterans. The study reached its conclusions on birth defects, although they have been seen in animals exposed to Agent Orange.

An independent inquiry was demanded by David Clark, the shadow defence minister. "I remain unconvinced that the government is taking this issue seriously," he said — *The Guardian*.



Amnie West cradles her daughter: 'You don't mess with a mother'

Jordan remains firm

(Continued from page 1)

a group of journalists earlier this week that the Kingdom feared ending up with separate courses rather than tracks."

And while Dr. Anani was willing to concede that these separate courses are historically present because of common interests, he feared that lack of coordination among the Jordanians and Palestinians would create intra-party (the parties) rivals and competitive in dealing with Israel at the expense of each other.

In a statement he made Tuesday, Syrian Vice President Abdul Halim Khaddam referred to the comprehensiveness of the negotiations by saying "the concept of comprehensiveness cannot be ignored (and has to come) in coordination with Lebanon and Jordan."

Mr. Khaddam did not mention the PLO as part of the comprehensive solution but criticised it for signing the declaration of principles (DoP) and predicted that "Israel would emerge the winner" as a result of this move.

The Syrians did not hide their displeasure with Jordan over the latter's agenda agreement with Israel, which was signed in Washington on Sept. 14, not only because they might have thought it was a prelude to reaching a separate peace treaty with the Jewish state, but also

because it gave a diplomatic and political cover for the Sept. 13 agreement between the PLO and Israel.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa, at the time, issued what was seen as a warning to Jordan, but the issue was diffused soon afterwards when King Hussein visited President Assad in Damascus and reportedly assured him that Amman would not go it alone despite all the pressures it faced from the Americans and Israelis.

Officials and analysts here believe that Jordan cannot forge coordination with Syria and that this was made clear in His Majesty's statement Tuesday when he said that he had spoken about coordination with Syria, Lebanon and Egypt. "We have proven our commitment to work together. No one should believe that we will go it alone in this regard."

But while the Kingdom is committed to coordination with Syria, politicians agree that Jordan could not respond positively to dropping the PLO from coordination efforts because "it is a complicated and intricate relationship."

The King's virtual ultimatum to the PLO, while indicative of "tension" in relations between the two leaderships, can and should "serve interests of both Jordan and the PLO without hurting relations with Syria," one official said.

Jordan, PLO in crucial coordination talks

(Continued from page 1)

Executive Committee members Mohammad Zuhdi Al Nashashibi and Yasser Amr and the Palestinian ambassador to Jordan, Al Tayeb Abdul Rahim.

The King's meeting was preceded and followed by the two meetings between a high-level Jordanian delegation and the PLO team chaired by Dr. Tal and Mr. Kaddoumi. In addition to Dr. Anani, the Jordanian side included Planning Minister Ziad Fariz and Agriculture Minister Mohammad Mahdi Farhan.

Following the first meeting in the morning, Dr. Tal indicated that the two sides had agreed on the principles of

future coordination. "There is total agreement on the principles and objectives," Dr. Tal said. "We are discussing the means and policies that could translate these principles into realities."

Mr. Kaddoumi also remained very general, saying that he agreed with King Hussein that "the relationship should be built on a sound and clear basis."

Mr. Kaddoumi sought to play down the differences.

"There is no crisis," he said. "This is a family affair and we have come here to discuss all issues pertaining to the future of the one family."

"There is a keen desire for

the need to carry out joint work because we are approaching a very dangerous period and this explains King Hussein's recent statements and his desire to build relations on healthy foundations," he said.

PLO officials have said that the organisation was seeking the postponement of the signing of the agreement until the formation of the national Palestinian authority. The officials have also said that the Palestinian side was hoping that the Israeli will agree to the setting up of a Palestinian central bank.

But sources in Tunis said on Wednesday that proceeding

with practical economic arrangements with Jordan did not need to wait for the setting up of a Palestinian authority, and that the issue of a Palestinian central bank was still a subject of serious discussion in Tunis.

There was no confirmation by the PLO if it was ready to drop its demand for confederal relations with Jordan as a basis for present and future agreements. But PLO officials said that Mr. Arafat was seeking agreements that will lay the basis for a relationship on equal footing between Jordan

and the future entity.

The fact that Mr. Kaddoumi is the head of the Palestinian delegation, is viewed as a positive sign since he understands reservations expressed by Arab governments about the Israeli-Palestinian accord and he himself has been critical of the failure of the PLO to coordinate with the other Arab countries.

Mr. Kaddoumi represents a growing trend within the PLO that expresses deep fears that the accord could turn against the Palestinian and Arab interests unless there is close coordination with the Arab countries.

the formal Palestinian foreign minister.

Mr. Kaddoumi, a cofounder of the Fatah movement, believes that close coordination with Arab countries, particularly with Jordan, was crucial lest the Palestinians would be left alone under Israel's mercy.

Mr. Kaddoumi himself was kept in the dark about the accord, and was not involved in the secret negotiations in Oslo and did not sign it in Washington — although he is

Israel, PLO reach compromise

(Continued from page 1)

the right to reject those coming across.

The control of the crossings between Jordan and Jericho, and Egypt and Gaza has been a major sticking point and delayed the start of the Israeli withdrawal scheduled for December.

Jewish seminary at school site

Jerusalem's city council, under a new right-wing mayor, has taken the first step to turn a site earmarked for an Arab school into a housing for a Jewish seminary, a municipal spokesman said.

Palestinians fear the move may signal the start of a campaign by Ehud Olmert to settle

more Jews among 150,000 Palestinians in East Jerusalem.

Officials of the Beit Orot seminary on the Mount of Olives in Arab East Jerusalem moved seven mobile homes to the site under cover of darkness on Monday night, hours after a municipal subcommittee approved the plan.

The site was (originally) zoned for a middle school. The sub-committee for planning approved the Beit Orot Yeshiva's request to build housing on it, municipal spokesman Ruth Jaffa said.

She said the land was "privately" owned "by Jews who wanted the land used for a Jewish seminary, a municipal spokesman said.

THE NATIONAL MUSIC CONSERVATORY/NOOR AL HUSSEIN FOUNDATION FORTHCOMING EVENTS JANUARY 1994

Wednesday, 12 January - 8:00 p.m.

Flute & Piano Recital

Other and daughter ensemble Patricia and Julie Carter will present a special recital of American, Austrian, Polish and French art music on flute and piano. The program includes pieces by Schubert, Chopin, Pollicino, Copland and others. It will be a beautiful example of a musical family performing together to create a very special concert atmosphere. Violinist Mohammad Ali Abbas and cellist Ali Musa of the faculty of the National Music Conservatory will also participate in this fine concert.

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theater

Ticket price : JD 5

In cooperation with Jiries Rihani and Sons Co.

Saturday, 15 January - 8:00 p.m.

The NMC Chamber Ensemble

This ensemble comprised of five professional musicians who are also faculty members of The National Music Conservatory will be presenting a memorable recital. Armen Armenakian (flute), Ali Shawki (clarinet), Mohammad Othman (piano), Mohammad Ali Abbas (violin/viola), and Ali Hussein Musa (cello) will be playing in various combinations of duets, trios and quintet groups to give a concert of wonderful quality and variety. In the program are pieces by Bach, Haydn, Chopin, Khatchaturian and others.

The Royal Cultural Centre - Main Theatre

Ticket Price: JD 5

In cooperation with the Austrian Embassy.

Cello & Piano Recital

This is the first of a series of concerts to be given during 1994 in cooperation with the Austrian Embassy and the National Music Conservatory. Florian Kitt (celist) and Rita Madjimorec (pianist) continue the Austrian tradition of producing some of the world's finest music and musicians. This recital will be a first for Jordan, and should not be missed.

The Royal Cultural Centre Main Theatre

Ticket Price: JD 5

Chairman of Tel Aviv Stock Exchange cautiously views '94

TEL AVIV (R) — The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange index rose by 29 per cent last year but its chairman is taking a cautious view for 1994.

In his annual report, Haim Stoessel said: "Future developments in the stock market depend, more than in the past, on a mixture of political and economic factors that are not easily forecast."

The market's sensitivity to Middle East peace moves was illustrated in September when the signing of a self-rule deal between Israel and the PLO pulled it out of a five-month slump.

Official estimates issued at the end of the year showed a 29.3 per cent increase in the general market index, which rose to 270.2 on a base of 100 set at the start of 1992. The Mishaniam index of 100 blue chip shares was up 17.1 per cent, to 248.54.

In 1992, the general index

soared nearly 74 per cent and the Mishaniam index 79 per cent over the year after the government allowed pension funds to play the market for the first time.

Mr. Stoessel described 1993 as a year in which stock market activity reached new dimensions in Israel.

"In 1993, 186 new companies offered their shares and the number of issues traded reached 1,140 from 777 at the end of 1992," he said.

"These growth rates are unprecedented when compared to the norm developed markets and also to past years of growth on the Tel Aviv exchange," he pointed out.

Daily volume rose 112 per cent in 1993 to 357 million shekels (\$125.8 million) from 168 million shekels (currently \$56.4 million) in 1992.

The total worth of shares traded increased by 62 per cent to 146 billion shekels (\$49 billion).

But the resumption in 1993

Japanese banks dispose of \$19.5b in bad loans

TOKYO (AFP) — The vehicle set up by Japanese banks a year ago to absorb bad loans said Tuesday that it had acquired non-performing assets worth 2.202 billion yen (\$19.5 billion) since March.

The latest figures announced by the Cooperative Credit Purchasing Co. Ltd. showed that banks were suffering even bigger losses on debt write-offs.

The agency said that had paid 1.210 billion yen for 890 non-performing loans acquired since March, representing 55 per cent of their face value.

But in December alone, the agency had paid only 105 billion yen for some 231 billion yen in bad loans, or 45 per cent of their face value. That compares purchases prices of two-thirds of the face value in the

initial transactions conducted before March and 51 per cent in the six months to September.

The Yomiuri Shimbun reported Tuesday that bad loans at major commercial banks were 72 per cent higher than previously disclosed at almost 16 trillion.

The leading daily said Hokkaido Takushoku Bank Ltd., the smallest of 11 city banks, had non-performing loans amounting to 47 billion yen to a leasing affiliate, the Yomiuri said.

In a separate report, the Mainichi Shimbun said that the bank planned to write off more than 100 billion yen in the current fiscal year ending in March, covering the losses by selling shares and possibly real estate.

Uzbekistan announces new taxes, raises food prices

TASHKENT, Uzbekistan (R) — The former Soviet republic of Uzbekistan has announced new corporate taxes and raised the prices of some basic foods by up to 50 per cent.

President Islam Karimov said in a decree that companies based in Uzbekistan and earning hard currency must pay 10 per cent of their income in tax to central authorities and five per cent to provincial or city bodies.

He also decreed that such companies must sell a further 15 per cent of their hard currency earnings to the central bank.

The decree carried in the

official Narodnoye Slovo newspaper said the firms engaging in barter trade will also have to pay tax in hard currency.

A government spokesman said he did not know whether the new taxes would be levied on foreign and joint ventures.

The new taxes aim to build up — this Central Asian nation's hard currency reserves, partly so that the central bank can use hard currency to support the national currency, the decree said.

Uzbekistan uses an interim currency called the som coupon, which has been losing value against the dollar recently.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Turkish stocks may face new year hangover

ISTANBUL (R) — Istanbul's stock exchange rose an intoxicating 194 per cent in dollar terms in 1993, but Turkey's economic woes could give at a new year hangover, brokers say.

Market capitalisation was \$46 billion lira (\$36.4 billion) at end-1993, against \$5 trillion (\$5.6 billion) a year earlier.

The exchange passed another milestone when it launched partial computer trading in December.

But brokers fear the heady times could be over.

They say investors could be deterred by worsening economic fundamentals and a perception that the government is unlikely to act firmly to correct them ahead of local elections in March.

Buoyed by Prime Minister Tansu Ciller's support for capital markets expansion, the growth of equity funds taking advantage of tax incentives and a weak dollar, the 60-share composite index soared five-fold last year to finish at 20,682.

The average price/earnings

ratio based on year-on-year company profits in June 1993 swelled to 25.75 from 7.4 at the start of the year.

Market capitalisation was

\$46 billion lira (\$36.4 billion)

at end-1993, against \$5 trillion (\$5.6 billion) a year earlier.

put Turkey under watch in

October to examine the effect

of its yawning fiscal and trade deficits on credit risk.

TEB's Akyol said a down-

grading was unlikely to trigger

a stock market crash, but

would have unfavourable re-

percussions.

Turkey borrowed \$3.8 billion in foreign bond markets last year, reducing its reliance on expensive domestic funds. But any credit downgrading could shift more funds to dol-

lars.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

Take care of your routine chores today and try to look on the good side of your situation without discarding anything of value that you may need later on. If you loan items get a receipt.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

In the face of unexpected changes, it is possible now to realise what your true aims are and proceed in such directions.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

You may feel that conditions are such that you can do nothing to improve them, but if you are more practical and friendly in your business and personal associations, much progress is yours.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

You are very dynamic now and this evening you find that close ties will give you finest advice and benefits. Contact them early and also increase your circle of worthwhile friends.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20)

By cooperating with family ties and doing whatever is in your power to please them, fine benefits will accrue for you while establishing far more harmonious relations.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

You have every opportunity now to show others that you are well versed in whatever matters are at hand. . . that you can go after current interest in the most modern way.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Financial affairs are your prime concern today, so be sure you get fine advice from experts in order to handle them adroitly. Set up a better budget.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR FRIDAY, JANUARY 7, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES:

You are going to need to work the angles and engineer others to do things that are important to your present circumstances if you are going to stabilise the efforts you have made for material success.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19)

Take care you get all tax, insurance, security matters handled wisely in the morning, later you can relax with a good friend who understands you and is loyal.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20)

Resolve not to have an argument with an associate when temper and sultriness is equal to yours. Make it a point to take him/her to some charming spot for fun instead and save the day.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21)

Be sure you prepare your tasks well before you tackle them or there can be damage and trouble later. Be careful with delicate things.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21)

Be content with inexpensive pleasures today or you can really lose money and get in the red if you follow extravagant tastes.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21)

Courtesy and gentility with close ties pay big dividends today. Strive for greater harmony in that important realm of your life.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 21)

Care while driving and in conversation with others is a

good busily occupied at your own tasks.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19)

Take care to act very circumspect today or you lose prestige and the respect which others now hold for you interns of your success.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20)

Take care you do not leave daily duties behind so that you can meet new people. It won't be worth the trouble. Be steady, then study into new outlet tonight.

THE Daily Crossword

by Charles R. Woodard

ACROSS

1 Beginning with S, a heavy resin

10 Dose

14 Zhivago's love

15 Revolutionary

16 Rock concert

17 Garment

21 Nurseries

22 street

23 Grow weary

24 Collier, coal river

25 Orient

26 Arachnid

27 Equine place

28 Muslim's new

29 Spanish

30 Bachelor

31 Groom

32 Cleopatra

33 John Jacob

34 TV alien

35 Star

36 Hero Murphy

37 Leinen Lee

38 Fragrance

39 Beastly women

40 Author Truman

41 Sari

42 Happy look

43 Farm measure

44 Rule of India

45 Trivial

46 Author Guverna

47 Type type abbr.

48 Denk number

49 Cleopatra

50 Long gallery

51 Type type abbr.

52 Certain

53 Klein Nachtmusik

54 Cleo's viper

55 Cleopatra

56 Queen

57 Denk number

58 Cleopatra

59 Cleopatra

60 Cleopatra

61 Cleopatra

62 Cleopatra



Man. United, Liverpool draw in 6-goal classic

LIVERPOOL (Agencies) — English champions Manchester United and former premier club Liverpool served up a six-goal classic here Tuesday that earned a standing ovation from a packed 43,000 crowd.

It was the perfect advert for action-packed British football — yet Alex Ferguson's premiership were left kicking themselves after leading 3-0 inside the first half-an-hour only to be pegged back by Graeme Souness's never-say-die side.

A Steve Bruce header, followed by a Ryan Giggs wonder goal and a perfect free-kick from Denis Irwin all within a quarter of an hour of each other seemed to have secured the points at Anfield.

But Nigel Clough responded with a double before the break.

The Neil Ruddock saw that justice was done with just ten minutes to go, thundering home a bullet header to make it 3-3 after substitute Stig Inge Bjorneboe had floated over a cross with almost his first touch of the game.

The first half proved a classic, punctuated by the five goals, non-stop action and total commitment.

As early as the first minute Robbie Fowler was let in after a long shot bounced to him of a defender but he fired over when it looked easier to score. Peter Schmeichel had to dash out seconds later to smother another attack as Liverpool upped the pace but United turned the game on its head in the next quarter of an hour.

First Bruce sneaked in between two defenders in the ninth minute to head down past Grobbaer after Cantona had chipped over a harmless-looking cross from the left.

Then in the 20th minute Giggs produced a magical moment after catching Wright in possession following a loose back pass from Jamie Redknapp.

The Welsh international, under pressure from the back-pedalling Wright and Ruddock, clapped a glorious shot over Grobbaer from the left corner of the box to make it 2-0.

Liverpool were clearly stunned — but things got even worse four minutes later when Irish fullback Irwin bent an unstoppable free-kick over the defensive wall and into the top left-hand corner.

At 3-0, the home side looked doomed to a thrashing, but the game took a new turn just a minute later.

Midfielder Clough, latching



Everton's Mark Ward (No. 7) rushes to intercept Eddie Newton of Chelsea during the match which Chelsea won 4-2 (AFP photo)

onto the ball 30 yards out, produced a dipping snapshot which curved away from the keeper and ricocheted in off the base of the right post for his seventh goal of the season.

Then, seven minutes from half time, Clough did it again, charging on to a loose ball in the area and drilling the ball into the left corner with Schmeichel stranded.

There was still time for Giggs to totally miss the ball five yards out with Grobbaer grounded after an earlier and Fowler to net, only to have the goal disallowed after a foul on right back Paul Parker.

The second half was marked by a string of five saves. Grobbaer keeping out Giggs in the 62nd minute with a full-length save to his left and Schmeichel responding with an equally good stop seconds later.

Grobbaer produced another fine block to keep in the game. Edging a Roy Keane drive around the post, after Eric Cantona had poked him out with a fine ball from the left wing.

Incredibly, Liverpool had 14 shots during the 90 minutes — while United outdid them with 15.

Afterwards Ruddock described it as the greatest game he had ever played in.

Celebrating his second goal in successive games, the defender said: "We were all over the place in the first half hour but

we re-found our shape. "To get back after being 3-0 down against the champions shows how much potential we have."

"Clough's first goal gave us a glimmer of hope and we thought we could win at half time. The atmosphere was unbelievable — it's the greatest game I have ever played in."

In other Tuesday evening action, Newcastle pipped Norwich 2-1 with an 80th minute goal from scoring sensation Andy Cole — his 28th of the season.

But the fans were more worried about chanting their opposition to Everton's reported poaching attempt for the Canaries' manager Mike Walker.

"There's only one Mike Walker," they chorused.

Club Chairman Robert Chase has threatened legal action if Everton approach the Norwich boss after being refused permission, but Walker has indicated a desire to talk with Everton and may yet be tempted with a "double your money" pay package.

The opening goal came after four minutes when Ruel Fox tricked John Beresford and pulled his cross behind retreating defenders for Mark Bowen to volley his fourth goal of the season.

Newcastle hit back with a surprise 20th minute Peter Beardsley equaliser after a

one-two with Lee Clark, the former England international skipping past Gary Megson to score.

Col hit the woodwork twice while Beardsley glanced the post before the winner.

Everton's headlong drop towards the relegation zone of the English Premier League continued Monday when they lost 4-2 at Chelsea for their fifth successive defeat.

The only comfort caretaker-manager Jimmy Gabriel could take from his side's latest setback was seeing them score for the first time since Dec. 4.

It was revitalised Chelsea's third successive win after their own 11-match run without a victory ended last Tuesday. Two goals from Mark Stein and one from Craig Burley and Neil Shipperley gave the West London club all three points.

Third-placed Arsenal failed to make much headway on the leading pair when they were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Queen's Park Rangers.

Arsenal's arch-rivals Tottenham lost for the third time in their four-match holiday programme when they went down 1-0 at Sheffield Wednesday. Mark Bright scored the only goal after five minutes.

In another Sheffield-London encounter, West Ham drew 0-0 with relegation-threatened Sheffield United, who have now failed to score in seven of their last eight matches.

Sampras ousted in 1st round by little-known Moroccan in Doha

DOHA (AP) — Pete Sampras, the world No. 1 ranked tennis player, was knocked out in the first round of the \$525,000 Qatar Open Wednesday by little known Karim Alami of Morocco.

Alami, ranked 204th, pulled off the stunning upset by prevailing over the American in a tense battle 3-6, 6-2, 6-4.

"I had already made a flight reservation to leave Doha tonight when I found out I was due to play Sampras," said the 20-year-old from Casablanca, who entered the competition via the pre-tournament qualification playoff.

"When I saw the draw I thought to myself that it would be a good experience for me and a good opportunity to play him. He made a lot of mistakes and I played great today."

Sampras said later he had let victory slip through his fingers.

"I let him off the hook. I didn't play well at all. I had the match under control, but for a set and a half my serve just vanished," said Sampras, who served up a total of eight double faults in the match.

"This is not the way I wanted to start the year off, but he is a crafty player who played well. It can be difficult against a man who you have never come up against before."

The first round match had been held over from Tuesday because of a slippery surface caused by an unusually high humidity levels. Sampras had been leading 3-1 in the first set.

The American ace, who earned a staggering \$4.5 million last season compared to Alami's meager \$33,000, breezed through the first set.

He broke Alami in the first game of the second set and then held to lead 2-0. But then the Moroccan came back and broke Sampras three times in succession.

The long-shot challenger gained confidence when he took the sixth game of the second set with a sweep drop shot that left Sampras struggling at the back of the court.

Alami won the set when Sampras served up a double fault.

In the final set, Sampras drew first blood by breaking to lead 3-2. But his opponent hit

straight back saving three break points to even the match again.

Both players held serve until Alami was leading 5-4. Sampras then cracked, giving the young Moroccan two match points.

But he only needed one. Sampras smashed a forehand into the net to hand the match to the Moroccan.

"I played great tennis today," said Alami, who goes against Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands in the second round. "This victory is a present for my father who was here to watch."

Sampras meanwhile vowed to bounce straight back from the defeat.

"I'm very disappointed but upsets happen every day in sport. Today it happened to me," he said. "I played well enough to win. I just didn't (win). Some days you just come up short which hasn't happened too often over the last years."

He added: "But I will work just as hard as I did last year when I won two Grand Slams."

I can do it again and I'm looking forward to winning another one."

Croatia's Goran Ivanisevic was forced Tuesday to battle all the way to reach the second round of the Qatar Open, as three seeded players tumbled out of the tennis tournament on the second day.

The No. 4 seed Croatian star took almost two hours to defeat Japan's Shuzo Matsuoka 6-4, 6-4, 6-4.

No. 5 seed Marc Goettler of Germany lost to Holland's Jacco Eltingh 3-6, 6-7 (7-3), No. 7 seed Andrei Cherkasov of Russia went down to Germany's Karsten Braasch 6-3, 4-6, while No. 9 seed Javier Sanchez of Spain also lost in the first round to Stefano Pescosolido of Italy 4-6, 2-6.

Going through to the second round is Frenchman Olivier Delaître, who defeated qualifier Fernand Wibier of Holland 7-6, (7-2), 6-2.

[French] star Henri Leconte made it through to the second round, defeating qualifier and fellow countryman Frédéric Vitoux 6-3, 6-2.

Medvedeva advances in Australian hardcourt

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Third seed Natalia Medvedeva advanced to the third round of the Australian Women's Hardcourt Tennis Championship here Wednesday and then described playing in the middle of the day as a crime.

The only comfort caretaker-manager Jimmy Gabriel could take from his side's latest setback was seeing them score for the first time since Dec. 4.

It was revitalised Chelsea's third successive win after their own 11-match run without a victory ended last Tuesday. Two goals from Mark Stein and one from Craig Burley and Neil Shipperley gave the West London club all three points.

Third-placed Arsenal failed to make much headway on the leading pair when they were held to a 0-0 draw at home by Queen's Park Rangers.

Arsenal's arch-rivals Tottenham lost for the third time in their four-match holiday programme when they went down 1-0 at Sheffield Wednesday. Mark Bright scored the only goal after five minutes.

In another Sheffield-London encounter, West Ham drew 0-0 with relegation-threatened Sheffield United, who have now failed to score in seven of their last eight matches.

temperatures on-court are often much higher.

Players have even had to change their shoes to cool their feet.

However, Australia's Michelle Jaggard-Lai kept her cool to upset 14th-seeded Mexican Angelica Gavaldon in the second round.

The top seeds were, again, well served by Petr Korda who saw off the gallant challenge of Wally Masur 4-6, 6-4 to give his country an unbeatable 2-0 lead after the singles.

Jana Novotna had already won her first singles match in four attempts at the event, ousting Nicole Provis 6-2, 6-2 in 55 minutes. The Czech pair will now meet either Germany or Austria in the final Friday.

Korda turned his match with Masur around in typically dashing style after switching to a lighter racket at the end of the first set.

"Wally played well in the first set, but I felt like I was sleeping," said Korda, still suffering the after-effects of jet-lag. "I'm improving right now, which is important with the final and Australian Open to come."

Hamburg council spokesman Peter Leich said the city's security department was worried about the match in the Volksparkstadion on the outskirts of the city.

Novotna was scarcely recognisable from the different figure who lost in straight sets to Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere 24 hours earlier.

She looked a level above Provis who had beaten her 6-1, 6-4 on the same court last year, and was able to reel off 10 games on the trot on her way from 2-1 down in the first set to 5-0 up in the second.

Her serve was particularly impressive and she had delivered four aces by the time a one-sided match was over.

"I played a very solid match and didn't give Nicole anything," said Novotna. Her opponent was philosophical. "Some days they go in, some days they go out. Today they all went out," Provis said.

Germany England match may be moved or abandoned

BONN (R) — German and English soccer officials will meet later this month to decide whether to go ahead with plans for a friendly international in Hamburg in April on the anniversary of Adolf Hitler's birthday.

The Germans have already given up hopes of staging an under-21 game against England in the city the day before the April 20 friendly because they feared clashes between right-wing extremists.

A spokesman for the English FA in London denied sending the DFB a letter regarding the cancellation of the match but confirmed that discussions with the DFB would be continuing.

Schmidt added: "Later this month we plan to meet Hamburg officials and it is proposed that the English will be represented.

"The left-wing groups in Hamburg believe it will be very difficult to avoid trouble if right-wing extremists come to the match."

"We have received a letter from the English federation and from left-wing groups who are expressing concern about the match," Schmidt said.

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Russia issues new warning over opening NATO to East

MOSCOW (Agencies) — Russia issued its sternest warning yet to the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and the West Wednesday, asserting that any moves to admit Moscow's former allies into the alliance would jeopardise the end of the cold war and upset the balance of power in Europe.

In a statement, the Kremlin dismissed multiplying requests for NATO membership from East European states and former Soviet republics as "unconvincing" given Russia's democratic transformation, but said the applications nonetheless "worried" President Boris Yeltsin.

The statement was issued a day after Lithuania became the first former Soviet republic formally to ask to join NATO and the text made clear it was directly related to that move.

Expanding NATO, especially to countries immediately bordering Russia, "will trigger a negative response from Russian public opinion" and "will contribute to a growth of undesirable ideas in civilian and military circles," the statement said.

This was viewed as a clear allusion to anti-Western feelings already on the rise in Russia amid electoral gains by extreme nationalists and likely to be exacerbated by a perception

among Russians of further political and military isolation.

Opening NATO would also "lead to military and political destabilisation in a region crucial to the destiny of the world," said the statement, which was issued by Mr. Yeltsin's spokesman, Vyacheslav Kostikov.

Russian military and political leaders have already made clear their opposition to expansion of NATO, but Wednesday's statement was particularly firm and came as the Atlantic alliance faced mounting pressure to extend security guarantees eastwards.

Mr. Kostikov said President Yeltsin expected NATO leaders, meeting for a summit next week, to take a clear stand on the issue.

The unexpectedly swift and strong Russian reaction highlighted the dilemma of NATO leaders who already face membership bids from countries such as Poland and Hungary but fear that taking them on board would antagonise Moscow.

"When our time comes, we'll do the same thing," said Gunars Meierovics, Latvia's state minister for relations with Baltic states and Nordic countries.

But he said by telephone from Riga it would not make sense for Latvia to apply now because, unlike Lithuania, it still had up to 20,000 former Soviet troops on its territory.

former Warsaw Pact members.

The anxieties of Russia's East European neighbours have been heightened by last month's strong election showing by the party of ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky, who advocated the restoration of a Russian empire.

Mr. Kostikov's statement said Moscow respected the right of independent states to join international organisations.

But he criticised the "block psychology" of the would-be NATO members. Russia's embrace of democracy and its new military doctrine ruled out aggressive tendencies in foreign policy, and their motions and arguments were therefore unconvinced.

Lithuania's Baltic neighbours supported its position. All three countries of the region regained their independence in 1991, half a century after being annexed by Soviet dictator Josef Stalin.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

U.S. praises peace negotiators

OSLO (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher praised two Israeli and Palestinian negotiators and urged them to keep pressing for a peace accord. Norway's foreign ministry said on Wednesday, Uri Savir, a director general with Israel's foreign ministry, and senior Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) official Ahmad Qurea are now in Norway to receive a Norwegian honour for their efforts to help sign a deal on Palestinian self-rule. "I am certain that they will continue their efforts to see that the agreement now gets implemented and lays an essential building block for a just and lasting peace," Mr. Christopher said in a letter to Norway's foreign ministry. The letter added: "I can think of no two individuals who have worked harder during the course of the past year for peace, and for the achievement of real reconciliation between the Israeli and Palestinian people."

Israel gives cash to help collaborators

TEL AVIV (AFP) — The government has given the Shin Beth security service a special budget to help Palestinian collaborators fearing retribution once the autonomy plan goes into effect, the daily Haaretz said Wednesday. Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has authorised the creation of the budget to help some 2,000 collaborators and their families. They will be evacuated from areas of the Gaza Strip and Jericho which come under Palestinian control, or rehoused far from their native villages.

Weizman to visit Turkey this month

ANKARA (AFP) — President Ezer Weizman will make the first official visit by an Israeli head of state to Turkey, from Jan. 24-27, a government statement said Wednesday. His talks with his host, President Suleiman Demirel, will cover the development of bilateral relations in all sectors and international and regional problems. A number of agreements will be signed, particularly covering economic matters, the Turkish Foreign Ministry said.

Tehran sees 'new Israel' in Iraq

TEHRAN (AFP) — A semi-official Iranian newspaper on Wednesday warned against the establishment of a Kurdish state in northern Iraq as a plot by Western countries to create a "new Israel." The English-language Tehran Times predicted that the West's "hatred" for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein would prompt it to recognise the self-proclaimed Kurdish government in northern Iraq. The leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Jalal Talabani, "has been designated to implement the plot," it warned. "The creation of a new Israel in northern Iraq could seriously jeopardise the territorial integrity of all countries in the region," it added. The paper called for close cooperation between Iran and Turkey and consultation with Syria and Iraq in a bid to "thwart the Western ploy."

Lebanese member of parliament dies

BEIRUT (AP) — Abdullah Rassi, a Greek Orthodox physician-turned-politician and a minister in several previous governments, died Wednesday. He was 65. Dr. Rassi died of cancer in the Hotel Dieu Hospital, a spokesperson said.

Asked whether Germany took a position on whether Mr. Szimkus were guilty of espionage, Mr. Erdmann said: "We have no proof one way or the other."

The case of German engineer Helmut Szimkus has been finalised by the highest court of Iran and he was sentenced to death on charges of spying. Mr. Tabrizi told a Tehran news conference.

Mr. Tabrizi's announcement of the verdict was carried by state-run Tehran Radio and the official Islamic Republic News Agency.

He refused to give any more details in the case.

Mr. Tabrizi did not announce a date for carrying out the death sentence.

Mr. Tabrizi said Mr. Funke has asked for clemency for Mr. Szimkus, but the request has not been forwarded.

are perfectly aware that it would not be in their interest to carry out this sentence," said Mr. Erdmann.

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House votes to reconsider Ensour election challenge

By Suhair Obeidat
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Wednesday asked one of its committees to reconsider its ruling in a contest over the election of Deputy Abdullah Ensour in Balqa Governorate to the 12th Parliament.

The committee had initially rejected the contest on the ground that the contestant was a "candidate" rather than a "voter," based on the committee's interpretation of article 59 of the Election Law.

Article 59 states that "every voter has the right to contest the soundness of the election of any member of the Lower House of Parliament..."

According to the same law, no person may run for election unless he/she was registered in the voter lists.

A lengthy debate in which most deputies participated resulted in a vote over a motion by Deputy Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh to refer the contest back to the concerned committee for further consideration.

The vote was taken with an overwhelming majority, except for two deputies attending Wednesday's session (Nawaf Al Oadi and Fayad Jarrah), asking the committee to go back to the lists of voters in Balqa Governorate to make sure that Nael Masalhah, the contestant who ran on the ticket of the Islamic Action Front (IAF) was registered as a voter in that district.

A number of deputies, including Mr. Rawabdeh, Mohammad Owaidha and Mohammad Dawoudi, argued that the committee had met with Mr. Masalhah, Dr. Ensour and a number of witnesses after it had rejected the contest.

This argument is based on a legal interpretation that the committee should not have rejected the contest "in form" after conducting in-detail investigations, and having done so should have given a legal verdict on the contest rather than rejected it on technical grounds.

Abdullah Akaleh, an IAF deputy, said that a candidate is not considered one unless he first qualifies as a voter and the term "voter" does not mean that a candidate cannot be considered a voter.

An exchange of accusations between the committee's head, Deputy Muhsin Ruheini, and Deputy Ibrahim Zeid Keilani ended with Mr. Ruheini requesting the House to accept his and other members' resignation from the committee "because we do not accept any accusations."

Speaker Taher Al Masri asked the secretariat to delete this incident from its official records.

The House earlier referred to its Judiciary Committee the temporary education law of 1988 after it came back from the Senate with some adjustments.

During its four-hour session, the House also completed the formation of a number of temporary committees: education, health and environmental safety, rural and badia regions, public freedoms and citizens' rights, agriculture and irrigation, Palestine and occupied Arab territories and power and water strategies.

The House also discussed a number of motions by deputies and complaints presented to the Lower House, such as the civil pension law, decentralisation with regard to local authorities and administrative divisions, the legal dispute between the Ministry of Telecommunications and a printing press on the former's rejection of a telephone directory produced by the press.

The House voted on these and other motions and complaints and referred them to the government, various house committees, and filed others.

COLUMN

Hurd backs beleaguered U.K. minister

LONDON (R) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd Wednesday gave his support to beleaguered Environmental Minister Tim Yeo, fighting for his political life after admitting he had a child from an extramarital affair.

"I think he is a particularly worthwhile and effective minister and I hope he stays," Mr. Hurd told BBC Radio as Mr. Yeo's constituency contemplated the fate of the married minister.

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Rebel jets bomb Kabul amid Iranian mediation

LONDON (R) — A British businessman who took his bank manager out for lunch discovered out to his astonishment that he had been charged £110 (\$163) on his bank statement for the man's time. Christopher Keddall, who runs a printing firm in the southern seaside resort of Brighton, said after paying for the lunch and then being charged for two hours and 40 minutes of the manager's time: "It is a total cheek."

But a spokesman for Barclays Bank was unrepentant. He told the London Times: "Our manager had to read up on the file before lunch and spend a lot of time doing paperwork afterwards."

Major battles Wednesday were still going on as government troops launched an artillery and infantry assault on Bala Hisar Fort — Gen. Dostum's last stronghold in the capital — and fighting raged on in Kabul and a mutinous northern warlord.

Government troops captured Kabul airport from the militia of ex-communist and a number of temporary committees: education, health and environmental safety, rural and badia regions, public freedoms and citizens' rights, agriculture and irrigation, Palestine and occupied Arab territories and power and water strategies.

Forces under former Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Massoud wrested control of the Kabul airport earlier Wednesday, allowing for several air strikes against rebel positions.

But the participation of heavily armed and well-trained Hezb-e-Islami troops could reduce pressure on Gen. Dostum's forces, observers here said, adding that the pro-Iranian Hezb-e-Wahdat remained neutral in the clashes.

Two bombs landed in the diplomatic suburb of Wazir Akbar Khan. One hit the home of the deputy minister of aviation and tourism, who was out at the time, and the other landed near one of the few embassies still open.

Iranian diplomats were trying to negotiate a temporary truce between the president and Gen. Dostum's forces.

It was unclear whether the diplomats had reached Mr. Hekmatyar who has his base about 25 kilometres south of Kabul.

Leave Somalis alone — secessionist leader

NAIROBI (Agencies) — The leader of the breakaway Somali land republic which declared independence from Somalia in 1991 said Wednesday that the United Nations should leave Somalia to settle their own problems.

President Mohammad Egal, addressing supporters in the Kenyan capital Nairobi after lengthy talks with faction leader Mohammad Farah Aideed, said: "The U.N. should not portray Aideed as a monster. The U.N. does not understand the complexity of the Somali problem."

He advised the United Nations, repeatedly embroiled in disputes with his government over the world body's refusal to recognise Somali land, to stick to relief work.

U.N. troops last year clashed with supporters of General Aideed, the strongman of southern Mogadishu. As a non-governmental organisation and leave the negotiations to the Somalis and African leaders in the region, he said.

Britain's Rose to take over U.N. forces in Bosnia

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — Lieutenant-General Michael Rose of Britain will become the new commander of U.N. forces in Bosnia, the British Defence Ministry said in London Wednesday.

Gen. Rose will succeed Belgian Lt. General Francis Briquemont who has asked to be relieved of his post at the end of the month as commander of the more than 12,000 U.N. troops in Bosnia.

Gen. Rose led the British commando forces in the Falkland Islands war. He is now commander of the United Kingdom field army.

Gen. Rose led the Special Air Services (SAS) commando strike force that spearheaded the British drive to retake the Falklands from the Argentine army in 1982.

In New York, a high ranking U.N. official confirmed that Gen. Briquemont would be replaced by Gen. Rose.

Talks, fighting continue,

page 8.

Hamas will vote in Palestinian elections, but will boycott rule

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, will vote for a Palestinian authority in Gaza and Jericho but will boycott its rule, a leading member was quoted as saying on Wednesday.

"(Hamas) will take part in any elections to choose representatives of the Palestinian people provided they are not linked to prior conditions," Mahmoud Al Zohar said in an interview with Al Quds newspaper.

But he added: "It is natural we will not take part in any legislative or executive institution if the Israel-PLO agreement so as not to take on the burden of an agreement that does not accord with our values and political programme."

The Likud party leader said PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat had already broken promises by failing to stop anti-Israeli attacks and by not revoking sections of the PLO charter calling for Israel's destruction.

"Agreements are made to be honoured, but they're not made to be honoured unilaterally," Mr. Netanyahu said, adding that in such circumstances the September agreement Mr. Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed in Washington was no longer binding on Israel.

Hamas has previously said it would participate in the elections and many Palestinians believe the group's position will be crucial to the success or failure of Palestinian self-rule.

Hamas has wide support in the Gaza Strip where self-rule will first be tested.

At the same time, Hamas says it will go to war to avoid conflict with the PLO-run authority that will be cooperating with Israel on security issues.

Mr. Zohar, a lecturer at the

Islamic University of Gaza and one of 415 Hamas supporters expelled to Lebanon in 1992, said Hamas would advise the Palestinian authority to break out of the servile role assigned